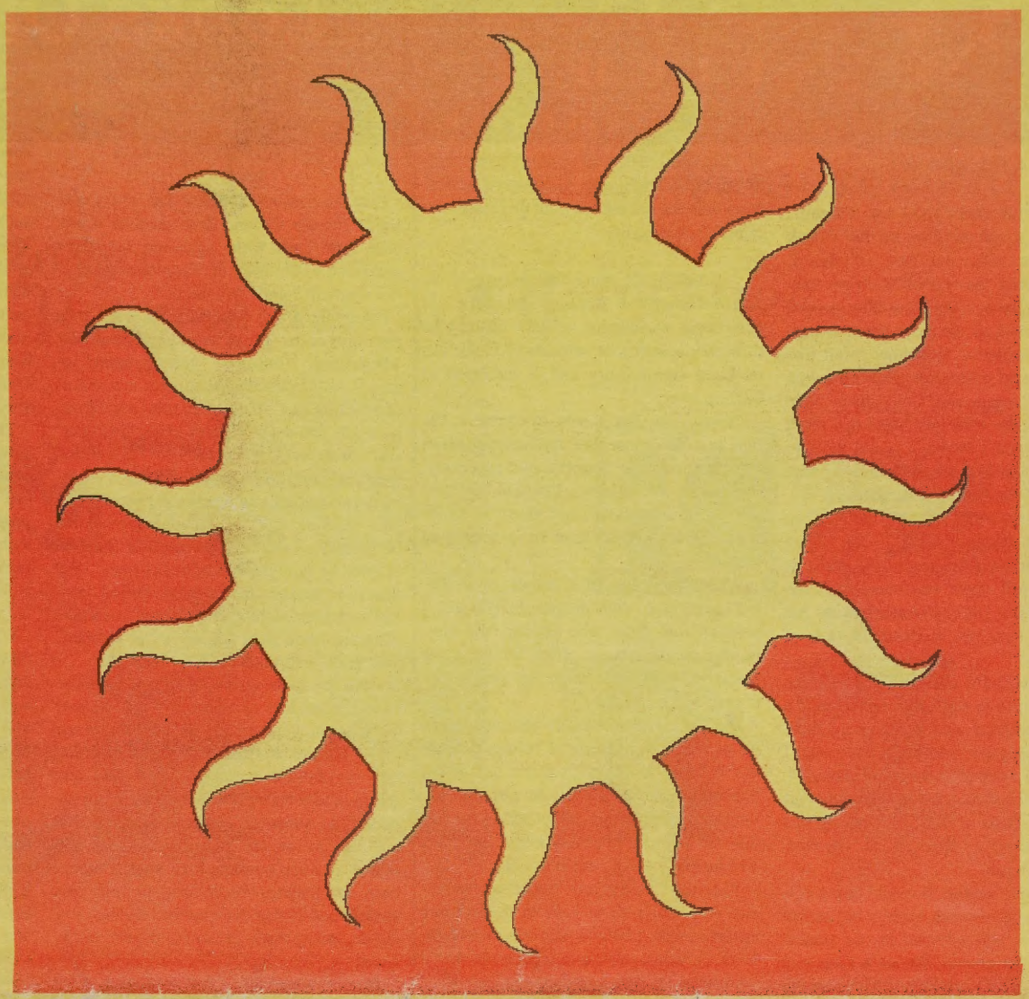
GROUND ZERO NEWS

JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER!!



DEDICATED TO EXPLORING ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITIES

Rafting

Hiking

Biking

Fishing

GROUND ZERO'S WOMEN'S PROJECT
SEMINAR TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH
"Buying Your Own Home"

Gardening

Mass June Same-Sex Wedding Ceremony Saturday, June 28th

PPGLCC'S SUMMER DANCE--JUNE 21ST

Honeymoon

Picnics

Juneteenth Celebration
June 14th & 15th

Graduation

Boating

DENVER'S PRIDEFEST
SUNDAY JUNE 29TH

Running

ELITCH GARDENS GAY DAY
JUNE 26 INSIDE/OUT

GLBT LEGAL COALITION-DENVER
RELATIONSHIP DOCUMENTATION
SEMINAR JUNE 27TH

Vacation

Julie Cooper explores the whole marriage question and June wedding events on pp. 4-5

June 1997 VOL. 5, NO. 6
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

I don't mind Straight People as long as they act gay in public

Seen on T-shirt as reported in Colorado Springs PFLAG's Newsletter

queer's eye view©

by Frank Whitworth

A Lesbian Looks On

by Julie Cooper

A Capitalist Be I

Well, several weeks ago I was a significant part of a conversation on the Chuck Baker Show (Oh, the cost of fame). Notwithstanding the rest of the trash they talked about that day, the guest idiot teamed with the resident of the same genre to proclaim me a socialist. Somehow, I felt like Ellen Degeneres when Jerry Falwell called her "Ellen Degenerate," to which she responded, "Gee, I haven't heard that since the fourth grade." While I would have to change the fourth grade reference to read "the sixties," the feeling is the same.

Lest you think that I have gone back on my previous declaration that I don't have time to waste on garbage like the show in question, I still don't, but many took the time to report the conversation to me (which may raise into question the taste of my friends.)

Now you socialist out there don't get me wrong. I happen to think that socialism is a legitimate political and economic which, like most, has good points and bad ones. I am, however, a dyed-in the-wool capitalist.

The determination for this labeling was made on the basis of some of the programs I have supported or opposed in the past, among which are:

***Affirmative Action**: It would take a person blinded by his own bigotry not to see the inequities still inherent in our system and among our people. We are a long way from not needing to make positive outreach *to include and make minorities of* our country full, and equal partners, included in all segments of our society, government and the business world.

That is what Affirmative Action is all about. I can buy into the argument that it is outdated and needs some sprucing up--but I cannot accept that it is not needed.

I have used as an example previously the following factoid:

Several years ago, the City of Richmond, VA decided to do away with Affirmative Action in the awarding of municipal contracts. In two years, the number of contracts held by minority companies dropped from 38% to less than 3%. The Black population of Richmond makes up approximately 50% of the total. Even with Affirmative Action, there was not full equality but there was certainly greater equity.

Additionally, since the passage of the anti-Affirmative Action initiative in California, enrollment in state institutions of higher learning of students of Color has declined significantly and is expected to decline more.

*Next in my list of sins, of course, is the fact that **I oppose the anti-immigration efforts across the country** and, especially, once more, in California. I believe that they are racist, xenophobic and meant to fulfill some "white males" need for a feeling of superiority.

When you think, for example, of an illegal immigrant, what picture do you get. I propose that most who support the anti-immigrant movement think brown, think black and think yellow and that they rarely, if ever, think white.

The truth is that the overwhelming majority of illegal immigrants (I believe the figure is 78%) in America today are white. White illegals, however, do not threaten white domination and do not add to the fact that the majority in America in a few years will be made up of people of color.

*The third area of my "socialist" tendencies is my support of laws to **protect our environment**. I believe that one of government's greatest roles is to regulate in such a manner as to preserve the health and welfare of its people.

The air we breathe, the water we drink, our great natural resources, must be protected from misuse and from abuse by the unscrupulous.

There are companies and corporations who are sensitive, who do try, who want to be good citizens. But, there are at least as many who are first driven by profit motives and will destroy the public trust in order to rake in all they can.

Thus, government must regulate in the common interest. Those who howl are not those who are already responsible citizens.

*Of course, I believe that **the historic and current treatment of Indigenous People**

Cont. on P. 17 See Queers EyeView

PUNGENT POSTCARDS

Like the certainty of a new day, every couple of months Ground Zero receives a prepaid post card from someone out there addressed to the likes of "Ground Nothing," "Ground-Up," and "Ground 0."

Our anonymous adversary takes the time out of his or her life to let us gays know how "disgusting," "impaired" and "gutteral" we all are. In the past this person has accused us of adopting cast-off children thinking we can be whole and accused us of being "predtors" and "destroyers of decency," "low-lifes," "unclean" and "unnatural." Through scribbled, misspelled and fractured grammar we have been told that "all you queer pigs should be ground up and used as manure," that we "should be fumigated in (y)our closets," and that our "makers should have pulled out." Little stickers adorned one of these cards proclaiming "thou shalt not be gay or lesbian," and "thou shalt not be Liberal Minded."

Well, we hadn't heard from our unsolicited correspondent since the first of the year and I began wondering if we were doing our job. I believe that before a movement can truly be fully integrated into society and accepted as a norm, it needs to flush out the underlying tones of intolerance and hatred and educate on the misunderstandings and stereotypes that promote such negative reactions and feelings.We do this through reasonable and loving dialogue and through living the example we present to the rest of the world.

Now, I'm not saying that we look and act like everyone else, but that through total acceptance of ourselves, by understanding and accepting our own and other's differences and by bravely living our lives openly, without shame, we teach people by our very example that we are all equal human beings, worthy of equal rights, with the same hopes, dreams and desires as everyone else.

I've learned that you can't fight hate with hate. Fighting fire with fire only creates a bigger fire. But by responding to hatred and fear with love and reason, we can touch the hearts and minds of those who have chosen to position themselves against us. We also touch nerves, the nerves of people who for whatever reason are bent on resisting the voice of love and reason and cling to their hatred like a worn out old crutch that should have been cast off long ago. That crutch has become a defense and a weapon to ward off anything that wouldhelp them see that they really don't need it any more, but it's become such a part of who they are that the fear of letting it go overwhelms the desire to be a whole, secure and loving person. Plus, the hatred that we extend to others tends to be an outward expression of a hatred directed inwardly at ourselves. (My own analysis based on personal experience; I feel like I know this person because I've dealt with very similar emotions.))

That's why I looked forward to these postcards. We touched the nerve of someone, someone who depends on their hatred for self-identity, much like the crutch that some might use to define their personhood rather than standing on their own merit, which can be truly frightening if all they've ever known is the crutch, or the hatred. It also meant that we were doing our job.

When I walked into the office this morning, on my desk rested the long-waited postcard, complete with no signature, no return address and the now-familiar handwriting telling me that I'm "a disgrace to all that's whole and decent" and that I pollute the air that this person breathes. (Yes, I'm addressing this message in the first person because it was meant as a personal attack.Though the reference is to gays, and because I am gay, the remarks are meant for me as well as the collective "we.") References were also made to Rosie O'Donnell and Ellen as "a mockery" and "...what an excuse for inhumanities."

By writing out the hatred, this person is essentially journaling, writing down feeling and expressing them in a manner many therapists encourage in order to begin to resolve negative emotions and to come to terms with what lies beneath the resentment and hatred.

By now this person, who apparently reads *Ground Zero News*, will have recognized his or her self in this editorial.

I would like to encourage you, annonymous postcard person, to keep writing us, keep journaling, and I ask that you address me personally in your postcards (my name is Julie), and when you feel ready, call me (635-6086). I would love to meet with you, sit down and talk with you, privately and in a "neutral" place, if you so desire, and discuss these issues so important to you. I don't hate you, so please don't hate yourself. I promise I won't recruit you, and that my gayness won't rub off on you. And I promise you I will listen.

Julie

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GROUND ZERO

Dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to promoting their participation in the community at large through education, coalition, and visibility.

P. O. Box 1982 Colorado Springs, CO 80901
Voice: (719) 635-6086 FAX: (719) 635-6106

***Ground Zero is ever grateful to Tim Gill and the Gill Foundation for its continuing significant support of our efforts!!**

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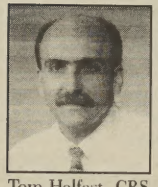
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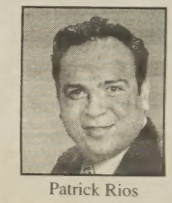
Patrick Rios
474-7891

Jerry Morris
474-7148

Give us a hand

Leading up to our 5th Birthday Anniversary Celebration in December, *Ground Zero News* will be featuring a year by year review of the past five years, one each month, for the next five months. We are seeking pictures and materials we can use, especially for the first two years. Call Julie at 635-6086.

Coming Out Stories

***Ground Zero News* is issuing a first call for original "Coming Out Stories" for our October "National Coming Out Month " Issue. We would like to have stories as soon as possible--but before August 15.**

Call Frank at 635-6086 for details

Ground Zero is a Member of or Supports the Following:

The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment

The Pikes Peak Human Relations Coalition

The Colorado Progressive Coalition

The Cheshire Committee

Citizen's Project

The Urban League

The Colorado Association of Non-Profit Organizations

The Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

The Colorado Springs Non-Profit Center

Food for Thought

Special Reminder

GZN is published in July on the 15th. Deadline will be the 8th for submissions.

There is no August 1st issue--the next issue after July 15th being on September 1

Consider advertising in the big three issues of the year, Pride (July), the special NWC Conference issue (Sept.), and Coming Out (Oct.). Special Rates for 3 Call Frank 635-6086

THE SWEET SPOT FOR BASEBALL ACTION

June Highlights:

FREE Color Team Pictures Tues. 6/10 game 7:05, gates open at 6:00. Free '97 Sox Team Pictures (all paid fans) plus $1 Tacos all game long. *Presented by* ***Hinckley & Schmitt Water, Oldies 92.9 & WANTV.***

FREE Sox T-Shirts/.50 Hot Dog Nite Wed. 6/11 game 7:05, gates open at 6:00. Free 10th Anniversary T-Shirts (1st 2000 pd. fans) *Presented by* ***MCI, KVUU 99.9 & KOAA Channels 5 & 30.*** America's Favorites Nite,with ***.50 Oscar Mayer Hot Dogs, Kool-Aid and Country Time Lemonade.***

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Prepared by
The Colorado Marriage
Rights Project

THE FREEDOM TO MARRY
A FACT SHEET

©Equality
Colorado

Fact Sheet: Freedom to Marry

In 1993, the Hawaii Supreme Court handed down a historic decision opening the door to equal marriage rights for lesbians and gay men. In sending the case Baehr v. Lewin back to trial court, the state's Supreme Court said that restrictions on same-gender marriage were probably in violation of the state's guarantee of equal protection on the basis of gender. Thus the state is faced with having to prove a "compelling"interest in maintaining its restriction.

Given that this is a very difficult burden to meet, many experts are predicting that sometime in the next year and a half a final victory will win lesbians and gay men the freedom to marry, with all its myriad benefits, rights, and responsibilities.

The implications of a Hawaii victory extend well beyond our fiftieth state. Because of the US Constitution's clause that forces states to give "Full Faith and Credit" to the laws of other states, other states should be required to recognize all marriages performed in Hawaii as valid, even if such a marriage wouldn't be performed in the other state.

This is what worries many of the radical right, and why they are working so hard to try to circumvent the Constitution by passing laws which would ban the recognition of same-gender marriages in other states.

What is Marriage, Anyway?

When people use the term "marriage," they are often speaking about many things, including religious ceremonies. That's why it's important to remember that we're talking about civil marriage, a legal relationship recognized by the government. Clergy have never been forced to perform any wedding they felt was against their beliefs.

Without legal marriage, many lesbian and gay couples are in long-term relationships with all of the responsibilities of married couples, but are denied the vast array of legal, economic, and practical benefits that married couples enjoy. Most of these benefits are not affected by domestic partnership laws, and cannot be privately arranged or contracted through other means. Furthermore, countless privileges extended by private employers, businesses, and banks, apply to married couples only

Of course, not every gay or lesbian couple would marry even if they could. Many heterosexual couples choose not to marry. But they do have the right to make that choice, the same right that same-gender couples desire. To deny that right deprives same-gender couples of the social, emotional, economic and legal significance that marriage may hold for them and their families.

A Key Precedent

Less than thirty years ago, the US Supreme Court finally struck down the last laws prohibiting interracial marriages. In Loving v. Virginia, the court acknowledged that while there might be a good deal of prejudice against such relationships, it was not right for the state to uphold these biases by interfering in these couples' fundamental right to marry.

Attacks on Same-Gender Marriage

It is crucial to understand the broader agenda of those most vehemently opposed to equal marriage rights for same-gender couples. They are the same people who oppose all rights of any sort for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people. They attack schools and libraries for providing any information on homosexuality.

They refuse to recognize any non-traditional families as deserving of equal rights. In 1995, the Utah Legislature voted to ban any recognition of same-gender marriages performed in other states. More and more state legislatures, especially those fearful of the radical right, are proposing similar legislation. Their main argument is that marriage is for the purpose of procreation only. In their rush they are forgetting the many male-female married couples who choose not to or are unable to have children, as well as the many same-gender couples who are currently raising children despite the government-sanctioned discrimination.

What You Can Do

The battle for equality is a long one, but them day of equal marriage rights for all is closer than it's ever been. That's why it is important to become educated and to get active around this issue. Nationally, the Resolution in Support of Equal Marriage Rights has been signed by numerous organizations. It says:

"Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the state should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage.";

There are any number of ways in which everyone can help with the issue:

Talk to every organization you are a part of, including social groups and faith communities. Ask them to sign on to the Marriage Resolution.

Host a dinner party

Let your friends know about this key struggle for equality.

Contact the Colorado Marriage Rights Project for more information and more ideas. We have a speakers bureau which tries to provide speakers at every engagement we're invited to.

To learn more about equal marriage rights for same-gender couples contact any of these organizations:

Ground Zero
PO Box 1982
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(719) 635-6086 FAX (719) 635-6106
email: grndzeroco@aol.com
Contact: Julie Cooper

Equality Colorado
PO Box 300476
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 839-5540 FAX: (303) 839-1361
e-mail: :equality@tde.com
Contact: Jonathan Kelley

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
Marriage Project
666 Broadway
Suite 1200
New York, NY 10010
(212) 995-8585 FAX:(212) 995-2306
Contact: Evan Wolfson

Talking Points

IT'S ABOUT EQUALITY

The goal of the gay rights movement has always been the achievement of equality in our society. For gay and lesbians to have true equality, we must have the ability to marry the partner of our choice. Anything less is unequal.

REAL FAMILIES ARE AT STAKE

Attacks on equal marriage rights are attacks on real families; families with children, with financial obligations and especially with the love that marriage is based on.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PROMOTED

Because we are talking about civil marriage, no religion will be required to perform any marriage it doesn't want to perform. But for those clergy who would like to have the ceremonies they perform for same-gender couples validated, current marriage laws restrict their freedoms to do so.

FAMILY STABILITY

For many, marriage creates or signifies the kind of stability that society says it wants to promote; by denying the right to same-gender couples, government is creating a Catch-22 ; labeling us as unstable yet denying us its hallmark of stability.

THE RADICAL RIGHT IS ATTACKING ALL NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

Anti-marriage legislation is promoted by the same groups who wish to limit the rights of single-parent and other non-traditional families.To them, there is only one kind of family. Everyone else is left out of their vision of America.

THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

The institution of marriage has undergone a number of changes historically. Women are no longer property of their husbands. No one can be forced to marry against their will. Interracial couples marry. Today we realize that the choice of a marriage partner belongs to each man and woman, not the state.

Facts and Quotes

Fact: Today same-gender couples are not allowed to legally marry in any state, and are often treated as no more than roommates under the law, no matter how long they've been together.

Fact: Among the countless rights denied partners in a same-sex relationship include immigration rights, inheritance rights, and often hospital visitation rights.

Fact: As recently as 1967, many states banned interracial marriages, claiming they were against God's will and thus should be outlawed.

Fact: The state-appointed Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law recommended that Hawaii grant the freedom to marry to same-sex couples.

Quote: "All people are entitled to equal rights. [Marriage] is one of the rights, and we think they should have it."

Tom Gill, Hawaii Commission chairman, former congressman and lieutenant governor.

Fact: The list of organizations supporting the freedom to marry includes every major national gay, lesbian, and bisexual rights group, the ACLU, NOW, Japanese-American Citizen's League, and the National Association of Women in Education.

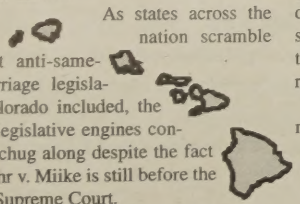
"What do other people get married for? That's the same reason we want to get married"

Joe Melillo, one of the six plaintiffs in Baehr v. Lewin

HAWAII AND COLORADO UPDATES

by Julie Cooper

Dateline: Hawaii



As states across the nation scramble to enact anti-same-sex marriage legislation, Colorado included, the Hawaii legislative engines continue to chug along despite the fact that Baehr v. Miike is still before the Hawaii Supreme Court.

In an effort to effect a "compromise," Hawaii state legislators are scurrying to pass a Domestic Partnership bill that would grant some of the rights afforded in heterosexual marriage to same-sex marriage, but not all.

According to Ward Stewart, a Hawaii correspondent who updates the rest of the country on line about the daily status of this landmark Hawaii Supreme Court decision, this is a victory, of sorts.

The governor of Hawaii has until June 23rd to veto the Reciprocal Beneficiaries bill and until July7th to sign it into law.

"We are now recognized," Ward wrote, " for the first time on a state level as a group of citizens whose situation has been rendered unequal by reason of irrational animus. Jay Seculow and four more of Pat Robertson's legal team were there (before the Hawaii state legislature), the Catholic church and the Mormons were there and they, in effect, forced our enemies in state government to swallow the bitter pill of domestic partnership as the ONLY way to slow us down--these are the same legislators who hate us and have, in the past, refused us ANY recognition of any sort."

But compromise to a politician often means that no one is to blame and one can easily wash their hands of the guilt of prejudice and discrimination.

"To compromise on matters of human rights and dignity is to think small and be small," according to John Weston, Honolulu Weekly journalist. "How can any representative body believe it may compromise human rights? The issue of equality and the inalienable human rights of independence and self-guidance in matters of deepest concern to existence, liberty and the pursuit of happiness do not fall into the same category as budget discussions, traffic control or even "reciprocal beneficiaries."

Dateline: Colorado

At this writing, HB 1198, the anti-same-sex marriage bill sits on Gov. Romer's desk awaiting an action. Romer has till the middle of June to veto this bill. If not vetoed, it will automatically become law with certain stipulations.

When Colorado's version of DOMA pass ed through the senate and landed on Romer's desk last Year, our governor bravely took a stand for fairness and equality and vetoed the mean-spirited bill.

"What are we to do," Gov. Romer stated to the House of Representatives on March 25, 1997, "when we look across the church congregation, our service clubs, or our workplace and see a gay or lesbian person, a human being who wants to live his or her life in the most responsible and caring way possible, and commits to a sharing life with a person of the same sex? What are we to say as a society about that relationship? Do we condemn them? Shouldn't they be able to live their lives to the fullest, in a responsible and caring way?

...We can be pro-family without being unfair to gay and lesbian people.... Let's find out how we can live together with our differences, rather than divide over the issue of sexual orientation."

Courageous words. We encourage everyone to write, call or e-mail Gov. Romer and remind him of his commitment to fairness and to veto HB 1198.

Honorable Roy Romer, Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

(303) 866-2471
e-mail:
romer@governor.state.co.us

Have a burning desire to know more about:

...the origins of the militia movement, current trends and future directions
...the theology behind the racist right
...the status of hate crimes laws, reporting, and victim support
...the use on the electoral process by, and the mainstreaming of, the far right
...attacks on affirmative action
...anti-immigration bias and xenophobia;
Or just need to brush up on: writing a newsletter; talking to media; organizing your community and in communities of faith; fundraising; networking.

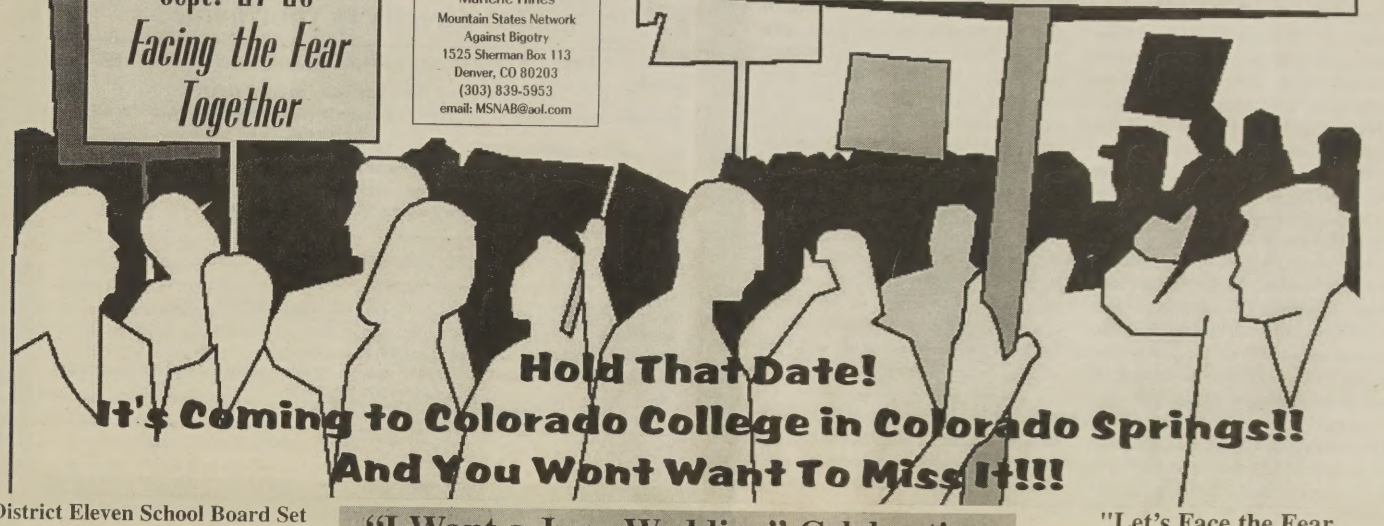
The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment

11th Annual Conference

Sept. 27-28

Facing the Fear Together

For more information
Please Contact:
Ann Oatman-Gardner
NWC Conference Coordinator
121 E. Pikes Peak #465
Colo. Springs CO 80903
(719) 471-8824
Fax: (719) 577-4107
email: tops@usa.net
Marlene Hines
Mountain States Network Against Bigotry
1525 Sherman Box 113
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 839-5953
email: MSNAB@aol.com



Hold That Date!
It's Coming to Colorado College in Colorado Springs!!
And You Wont Want To Miss It!!!

District Eleven School Board Set To Act On Health Policy

To their credit, the District Eleven School Board seems to have found its way through the mire that was the Colorado For Family Values "Protect Our Children" juggernaut to arrive at a basically sound policy proposal regarding issues such as drug and alcohol use and at risk behaviors. Most of the progressive and socially concerned community has endorsed the proposal as presented.

The Board avoided the pitfall of endorsing one family type over another and stuck clearly to the issues of seeking to reduce and ameliorate the effects of at-risk behavior.

CFV is not happy with the proposal, that will be voted on June 4th, because it does not enter into the "traditional family" rhetoric, thus avoiding condemnation of or demeaning of families that do not meet with CFV's vision of family. In a change of tack, CFV modified the thrust of their argument to ask the school board to endorse the concept of "legal marriage." Most Boardmembers appear to have seen through this as just another CFV attempt to get their agenda of exclusion approved by the Board.

"The new policy restates District Policy and state regulations. It is District policy to urge adherence to the law. A new policy affirming "legal" marriage is just so much rhetoric designed by CFV to promote its anti-gay agenda and to demean gay domestic relationships--nothing more," said Frank Whitworth, Exec. Director of Ground Zero.

The only school board member speaking up for CFV's proposal was Art Nutter, whose constant exclusionary prattle occupies much of many board meetings. Dr. Ken Olvey suggested that he might consider including something about legal marriage but was unclear if he would. Sherry Butcher, offended at a threat to the board by CFV, let her displeasure be known, both with the threat and with the proposal.

Ground Zero urges you to contact the Board, endorsing the health policy and opposing the "legal marriage" trap.

"I Want a June Wedding" Celebration Saturday, 28 June, 1997

In last year's mass wedding celebration, 55 couples from all over Colorado exchanged their vows in the first annual "I Want a June Wedding" Celebration sponsored by Equality Colorado. This year we expect 100 couples to take part in the event. The joy and meaning of the event was captured in the heartfelt words used to recognize the commitments made and honored that day, "In hopes for change in the laws of the State of Colorado, I pronounce you a married couple."

The Rev. Jeremy McLeod, coordinator for this year's celebration and pastor of MCC of Boulder County, and his husband, Mike McCarthy, were part of last year's Celebration. "Being part of this mass wedding was an important moment for Mike and I. There's such hope and power in our communities' naming and claiming the love in our lives. In today's social and political climate it is all the more important for us to make sure our friends, neighbors and communities know that our love is deep, mature, and treasured in the commitments of marriage."

This year's Celebration and Reception will be held at the Whatley Chapel on Denver University's Park Hill Campus in Denver. The ceremony will happen at 1:30pm. The reception will follow immediately and be over by 5pm. Basic costs for participation will be $25/couple in the ceremony and $10/person for guest tickets. Proceeds from the event will support the work of Equality Colorado and the Colorado Marriage Rights Project.

Registration packets and guest tickets for this year's Celebration will be available on 1 May 1997. They include a helpful booklet on planning for a wedding and all the information couples will need to prepare for the Celebration on 28 June. Couples interested in participating may purchase packets at the offices of Ground Zero, 125 Parkside, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Our phone number is 719-635-6086.

You can also call Equality Colorado to purchase tickets for couples or guests over the phone at 303-839-5540, or write to Equality Colorado, PO Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203.

The packets cost $2, which will be credited toward registration costs.

"Let's Face the Fear Together"

The Colorado College in Colorado Springs will be the location of the 11th Annual conference of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (NWC) the weekend of September 27-29, 1997. The local planning committee, which has been meeting monthly in Colorado Springs, has chosen "Let's Face the Fear Together" as this year's theme.

The annual conference, which is coming to Colorado for the first time this year, is a gathering of experts, activists, educators, government employees, and members of faith communities who are working together in the struggle for human rights for all people.

"The conference is the premier gathering of its type in the country" says Frank Whitworth of Ground Zero, and board member to the NWC. "Each year I walk away with a greater understanding of the theocratic right, what motivates its leaders, as well as the strategies and motivation I need to continue my work as an activist. Plus I get the opportunity to meet like minded people from across the region. Hosting this year's gathering is a real opportunity for the organizations and activists in our state."

The conference begins with a full day of presentations and workshops on Saturday, and concludes with half a day on Sunday. There will be ample time for networking, cultural events, and information gathering.

Additionally, there is a youth summit created by and for area youth to gather and talk with their peers about the issues of bigotry and prejudice, as well as about remedies. Area students have begun to meet to plan the format and content of the gathering that will occur on Friday, September 26th.

For more information please contact conference co-ordinator Anne Oatman-Gardner at 719-471-8824 or NWC staff Marlene Hines at 303-839-5953.

Viewpoint

John Sakowicz on HIV Today

Although transmission rates for HIV have pretty much leveled off in El Paso County, and new cases of reported AIDS are approaching a stasis with reported deaths from AIDS in our county, it is not time for complacency. Unfortunately, however, complacency about AID seems to be the prevailing mood right now.

I say complacency because President Clinton just appointed an uncontroversial, politically correct and safe choice to head the National AIDS Office--a heterosexual, white woman. I say complacency because the well-publicized cocktail therapy of promising new HIV drugs (fusion inhibitors, reverse transcriptase inhibitors, integrase inhibitors, zinc finger inhibitors, protease inhibitors and hydrea) is giving the general public the false impression that AIDS is just another treatable chronic disease like diabetes instead of the killer it really is. I say complacency because many community-based AIDS services organizations lately seem to be congratulating themselves that the worst of the AIDS epidemic is over.

But the AIDS epidemic is not over. And, I predict, the worst is yet to come.

To wit, scientists are charting higher and higher rates of unsafe sex, especially for young gay men. "Negotiated sex is not a realistic paradigm for these kids," says Mario Cooper of the Harvard AIDS Institute when talking about gay men under twenty-five. Dr. Cooper continues, "New research shows that the vast majority of young people are playing around on steady romantic partners. They don't have the emotional maturity to be honest with their partners." This reality means that the following HIV prevention approaches don't work for everyone: the "just say no" approach, the complicated negotiations of safer sex, with condoms approach, and the assumption of acceptable risk approach (oral sex, hand jobs, circle jerks, etc.). These approaches work with older gay men but a recent study in San Francisco found that 8.1% of gay men ages 17 to 22 are HIV+. The percentage jumps to 12.5 for young, black gay men.

Across the country, the news isn't much better. Approximately two percent of gay men are still seroconverting every year. There is also some recent research which indicates that sex with strangers, especially in public sex environments such as bathhouses and public parks, is on the rise.

The sales pitch for safer sex has got to change. What worked in the past isn't working now. Cooper suggests "...inculcating gays with a sense of self-value and appreciation for sexual intimacy," but that scares me too. It sounds too much like Will Perkins.

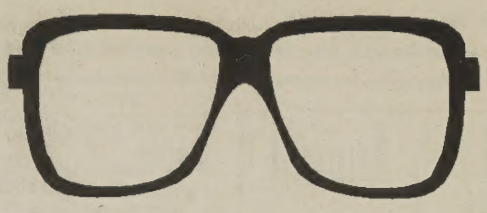
I'm not sure. I suspect the answer will have something to do with pride, with bringing back a sense that gay liberation was human liberation, and we were somehow leading the way. We need more gay poets and writers to celebrate gay culture, and we need more gay historians to chronicle it.

I suspect the answer will have something to do with community--that we belong and are somehow blessed. We are blessed. We need more gay priests, ministers and rabbis to sing our songs to the creator and to creation. We need a new theology for the nest millennium.

But I am sure the answer will have nothing to do with complacency.

John Sakowicz is the recent PEN award winner for writers with HIV?AIDS, He is the former outreach coordinator at S-CAP and has been executive director of the Cape Cod AIDS Council. He is a founder of the Provincetown, MA chapter of ACT-UP.

LIKE WHAT YOU'RE READING?



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☐ *Yes!! I want to stay updated and informed ! Please mail* Ground Zero News *directly to my home!*

Enclosed is my donation to support the effort and cover the cost of printing and postage:

___$25 ___$50 ___$75 ___$100 ___$250 ___$500 ___$1,000 _____other

_____I would like to become a sustaining monthly member of Ground Zero!

Please bill me / charge to my credit card (circle one) $_____ per month.

_____ check enclosed _____ Please charge my donation to my VISA / MASTERCARD (circle one)

My credit card number is:_____

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City_____State_____Zip_____

Phone(s) H_____W_____

fax_____e-mail_____

☐ *I want to know more about Ground Zero. Please send me information about your organization!*

Please mail this form to:

Ground Zero, P.O. Box 1982 Colorado Springs, CO 80901

We Want To hear From You

Letters to the Editor, special announcements to be published, organization events or stories, news stories, suggestions, viewpoints, etc.

Ground Zero

P.O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

(719) 635-6086 FAX: 635-6106 email: grndzeroco@aol.com

I WISH I MAY I WISH I MIGHT...
Ground Zero has a wish list!

If you can help with any or all of the following, please call either Julie or Frank at 635-6086!

3.5" Computer disks
Folding chairs and tables
Locked filing cabinet (4-5 drawers)
Office furniture
(especially office chairs that don't bite!)
Office organizers (professional and material)
Office supplies
(pens, folders, file folders [we can re-use the manila file folders many times over!], notebooks, etc.)
Postage meter with scale
Professional mounting and framing for articles from Amendment 2 decision
Recycling recepticals
Tools and tool box for office (so we don't have to use a wrench to pound nails!)
TV/Video player combination for presentations
Vaccuum cleaner

...and of course, in support of the PPGLCC library - books about or relating to the gay experience.

Denver PrideFest Celebration

Sunday June 29th

Join Ground Zero in the Parade and visit our booth.

PrideFest in Denver is Sponsored by GLBCSCC--Call (303) 839-5540 for Information

For Ground Zero Participation Information, call (719)635-6086

Colorado Springs Pridefest is Sunday, July 20th.

For Participation info., call 594-4847

Ground Zero will run a full story in its July 15th Pride Issue

PIKES PEAK METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY!

JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sunday, June 15 at 5PM– JUNETEENTH Commemoration
A special Gospel Music Celebration

Saturday, June 28 1-3PM–Workshop on Diversity presented by Reverend Delores Berry at The Pride Center

Saturday, June 28 at 7 pm Gospel Concert at All Souls Unitarian Church at 730 N. Tejon St. Reverend Berry will minister with a powerful blend of gospel music and testimony.

Sunday, June 29 5 PM Reverend Berry will preach.

Regular worship services are held each Sunday at 5:00 P.M. at 730 N. Tejon
Children's Church provided

Church office is in the Pride Center, 125 N. Parkside Dr. 80909
Phone: 719-634-3771 Fax: 719-634-3015 E-Mail:RevRost@aol.com
Rev. Nori J. Rost, pastor

A Community of News

Eight Pages of News and Events of Local interest For You To Pull Out And Save

Ground Zero board-member Ladd Bosworth normally has a column in this spot. He was too busy celebrating the beginning of summer break at CC to do so in the June Issue but should be back in July.
GZN Editor

AMENDMENT 2 ONE YEAR LATER

Ruling has given gay activists some ammunition

By Deb Price / The Detroit News
Reprinted with Permission of **The Detroit News**

One year ago, in a powerful ruling studded with fine phrases, the U.S. Supreme Court wrapped gay Americans in the protective embrace of the U.S. Constitution. It was a majestic moment, the court's first major decision in favor of gay rights. But as jubilant cheers echoed off the court's marble pillars, a question tugged for attention: What exactly was won?

A year later, the justices themselves probably can't answer with any real precision. Yes, the court forcefully knocked down Colorado's Amendment 2, which outlawed any protection of gay rights. But the national impact of such a legal breakthrough unfolds ever so slowly, as lawmakers, judges and everyday people react, and as the high court uses it as a yardstick for measuring the merits of new pleas.

Nevertheless, the early accounting of our winnings in Romer vs. Evans is enormously encouraging. Regardless of whether they're dealing with a military, employment, parenting or marriage case, gay-rights attorneys now can stride into any court and make two undeniable assertions: The Constitution's guarantee of equal protection extends to gay Americans. And our nation's highest court has decreed that anti-gay prejudice is not a legitimate basis for any law.

In Romer, the Supreme Court's six-member majority made no mention of its infamous 1986 decision upholding sodomy laws. Thus, the justices silently signaled that the sodomy ruling, Bowers vs. Hardwick, shouldn't be used as a knee-jerk excuse for anti-gay decisions. The upshot is that "an equal protection claim has to be taken seriously. It can't just be laughed out of court. Courts were just saying, 'Bowers vs. Hardwick. You lose.' They can't say that anymore," says Arthur Leonard, author of Sexuality and the Law.

Even though the hostile Hardwick decision wasn't reversed, Romer has begun taking its place in setting the ambience in lower courts for gay cases, says Chai Feldblum, a top gay legal strategist. "Hardwick was an 800-pound gorilla in the middle of the room, even if it didn't belong there. And now instead we have this lovely orchestra playing."

Ruth Harlow of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has watched Romer work courtroom magic. When Harlow argued the case of a Georgia lesbian who lost a job offer after having a holy union ceremony, the attitude of a three-judge federal panel was, "What do you mean this gay woman is calling her relationship a marriage?" After Romer, the case was re-argued before an expanded panel of judges. And the judges went "out of their way to characterize her relationship in a respectful way," Harlow says.

Romer's first-year impact extends well beyond caging Hardwick, though. Colorado-style anti-gay ballot initiatives, which had been a huge drain on gay resources, are no longer popping up. And because the gay-friendly ruling came from the Supreme Court, it provides "rocket fuel" for members of Congress pushing to outlaw anti-gay job bias, says Human Rights Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch.

Also, Romer directly disarmed a primary weapon of far-right extremists, the claim that gay people seek special rights. "We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds," the Supreme Court declared. "These protections are taken for granted by most people either because they already have them or do not need them. ..."

Continued on bottom right side--this page--see Price

P. M. Wynn Takes Over Morning Show From Mayor Bob

P.M. Wynn, who joined Ground Zero's Board last month, started her own Radio Talk show on KKCS AM 1460 in early May. The show, *P.M. in the A.M.*, is on from 9-11 a.m. Monday through Friday and features guests from all areas of the community and spotlights activities from the broad community, also. P.M., who is straight, joined Ground Zero's Board because she believed it was time to demonstrate the need for all challenged minorities to work together for their common good. She also has a regular gospel music show, the P.M. Wynn Gospel Review Show, on KWPD 1590 AM. She formerly hosted a talk show on KXRM TV that became too inclusive for that station's taste, resulting in her not being continued in that slot.

Former Mayor Bob Isaac previously hosted a talk show in the time slot now occupied by P.M.'s show. Local Rush Limbaugh "wannabe," Chuck Baker, also hosts a show in the afternoon on the same station. The new show is seen as a balance to Baker's very strident far right presentations. On the first day, she presented a program featuring extreme right winger Ed Bircham and Community activist (and a Ground Zero founder/member), Rob Gordon.

Consortium Sponsors Relationship Documentation Seminar

Denver--The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Legal Coalition, a cooperative effort between the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP), Equality Colorado, the ACLU, and the Colorado Gay and Lesbian Lawyers Association is holding a relationship seminar to help same-sex couples formalize their commitment.

The event, which is timed to coincide with Equality's June 28th, 1997 "June Wedding" will be held on Thursday, June 26th, 1997 from 6-8 p.m. For $50 per couple, attendees will hear presentations from four Colorado lawyers on relationship legal topic ranging from powers of attorney and partnership agreements to taxes and wills. Each couple will receive a packet of sample materials, and notaries will be present for those wishing to complete powers of attorney during the seminar.

"Unlike our heterosexual counterparts, gay and lesbian couples do not receive any automatic protection from participating in a ceremonial wedding,"explained CLIP director Julie Toleson. "We have to prepare legal documents to ensure that in the event of a breakup, illness, or death, we are not at risk." Toleson urged couples to participate in the seminar.

Michelle Drea, director of Equality Colorado's Anti-Violence Project, agreed. "Couples who have made a serious commitment but not taken certain legal steps are playing Russian roulette with their finances." Drea confirmed that the seminar is open to everyone, not just those who are tying the knot ar the June Wedding. Drea said that the price was a bargain.

The GLBT Legal Coalition has not yet announced where the seminar will be held, but indicated that it will be in Denver, wither at the DU-Park Hill Campus or at the ACLU offices at 7th and Corona. Mark you calendars!

For more information, call CLIP at (303) 830-2100 or Equality Colorado at (303) 839-5540.

Third in the Women's Developmental Workshop series

Tired of Renting?

You can own your own home

- as a single woman
- as a same-sex couple
- as a single-or-dual parent family
- as a physically challenged woman
- as an investment

Let Jim Toribet show you how!

A veteran real estate agent and broker, Jim Toribet has helped many people just like you shed the shackles of renting - *and it's easier than you think!*

Come to the

OWN YOUR OWN HOME WORKSHOP

and learn how!

Tuesday, June 24, 1997
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
at the Pride Center
125 N. Parkside
(719) 635-6086

sponsored by Ground Zero

Ground Zero does not endorse or support a specific agent or method.
These workshops are solely for the educational benefit of the GLBT and supportive community.

Learn the basics of real estate, credit, mortgage, regulations and financial aid that can get you into your own home!

Future workshops will include detailed information on financial help for the physically challenged, HUD repos, real estate as an investment, and more!
Watch your Ground Zero News for dates and times!

Plese call to let us know you plan to attend so we can have enough space and handouts for everyone!

Continued from above left Price

Romer is proving its worth in a wide range of cases. A Florida judge cited it last November in overturning the 1994 Alachua County charter amendment banning gay-rights laws. In February, federal Judge Betty Fletcher, dissenting from a decision allowing the Navy to expel a gay Bronze Star winner, declared, "Disapproval of homosexuality on the part of heterosexual servicemembers is an impermissible reason for discriminating against gay servicemembers. See Romer."

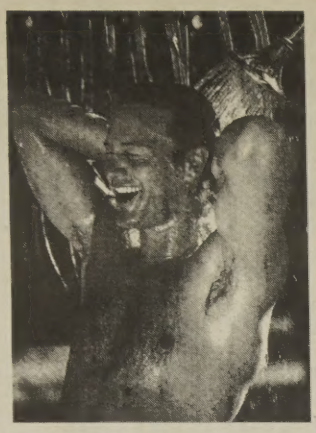
Meanwhile, the National Center for Lesbian Rights is drawing on Romer for support in custody battles in Alabama, Missouri and Tennessee. "Romer gives us hope in geographic areas where we had very little," says executive director Kathryn Kendell.

Very soon, gay-rights attorneys also will start using Romer to attack state sodomy laws, specifically those outlawing only gay sex.

Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled Colorado may not make gay people "unequal to everyone else," will weigh in again on the constitutional rights of gay Americans. We'll know better then how much was won with Romer. We are progressing toward first-class rights.

We remain unequal.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUMMER, NOT EVERYTHING COMES OFF.



Remember, always use your brain, no matter what season of the year it is!

You may know that latex condoms (rubbers) can help protect you from the AIDS virus and many other diseases, but you may not know how condoms can help you and your lover enjoy each other more than ever before!

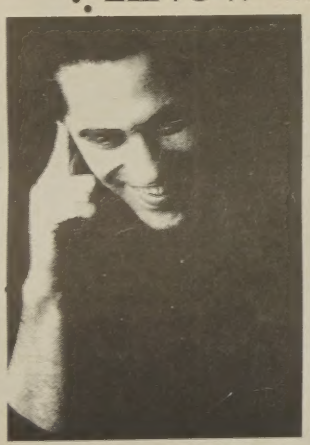
Make love better, healthier!

The Southern Colorado AIDS Project has information on all issues that are important to you. We hold workshops on everything from health and nutrition, to safe sex practices, interfaith workshops, and fitness.

J.U.I.C.E.
JUST USE IT; CONDOMS EVERYTIME

S-CAP 578-9092

KNOW THE FACTS?



The Southern Colorado AIDS Project has information on all issues that are important to you.

We hold workshops on everything from health and nutrition, to safe sex practices, interfaith workshops, and fitness.

If you have a question, we have the answer.

J.U.I.C.E.
JUST USE IT;
CONDOMS EVERYTIME

S-CAP 578-9092

NEWS FROM LA GENTE UNIDA

of concern to Latina Lesbians and Latino Gays

(Editor's note: La Gente Unida in Denver has consented to allow *GZN* to reprint news from their newsletter and other information. We would like to have someone in Southern Colorado to report on area specific news/perhaps a bilingual column. Any takers??? Call Frank at 635-6086)

What is Cinco de Mayo??

Napoleon Bonaparte, the Emperor of France, named his brother the King of Spain. Mexican people did not like him, and, September 16, 1810, with the cry of independence, began the war of independence from Spain. In 1821, Mexico won its independence after 300 years of Spanish colonization.

Lamentably, Spain didn't prepare Mexico to govern itself. The young Mexican nation had to change colonial institutions for institutions of a republic. The task was not easy. The rich and the clergy controlled all the wealth & resources of Mexico, and the people, Indians and mixed (90% of the population) were very poor.

Also, Mexico had problems with its neighbor, the United States. In 1836 Texas won independence from Mexico. Ten years later in 1846 the war with the U.S. took place and Mexico lost California, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

In 1857 Mexico made the Reform Laws of the land a new constitution for a representative democracy. In 1861 Benito Juarez, an Indian from Oaxaca, was elected President of the Republic of Mexico. Many people believed that Mexico was going to be a modern nation.

But Mexico was bankrupt from the excesses of the rich and the terrible wars. President Juarez had suspended the foreign debt for a period of two years because 90% of taxes had been designated to satisfy the foreign debt, principally to France, England and Spain.

France, England and Spain demanded that Mexico pay its debt and, in order to protect their interest, formed the Triple Alliance. Mexico's government negotiated with the Triple Alliance and England and Spain agreed to wait two years for their money, but the French government demanded that Mexico pay its debt immediately. When Mexico didn't pay, the French Emperor, Napoleon III, sent his army to conquer Mexico.

Napoleon III believed that the conquest of Mexico would be easy for two reasons. The first reason was that he knew the French Army was the best army in the world and he believed the Mexicans were weak and cowardly. The second reason was that he knew the United States was in the middle of a civil war and couldn't apply the historic Monroe Doctrine, opposing the French move into Mexico,

In April, 1862, a French army of 6,000 men left from the city of Veracruz to capture the Mexican capital. In the city of Puebla the young genera, Ignacio Zaragoza was waiting with a Mexican army of 4,000 men. The French army arrived at Puebla on the morning of May 5th and attacked Puebla's forts. The Battle was terrible and many soldiers were killed. The French soldiers attacked the forts three times, but they couldn't defeat the brave Mexicans. At the end of the day, the French army left the battlefield in defeat to the surprise of France and the world.

The road between Veracruz and the Mexican capitol via Puebla was the road of the Spanish conquerors in 1521, the U.S. Army in 1846, and now the French army in 1862. The battle stopped the French army, the first time Mexicans had ever stopped foreign invaders.

The next year, the French retuned with an army of 36,000 and in the second battle at Puebla, Mexico was defeated by Napoleon III. In 1863, Napoleon named his cousin, Maximilian Von Hapsburg the King of Mexico..

Today, May 5th is a Mexican festivity more important with Chicanos and Mexicans living in the U.S. It is not an important day in Mexico. Nobody knows why May 5th is more important than "the shout" (Septmeber 16th) in the U.S. May 5th is a unique tradition for Mexican people in the United States.

S-CAP can be contacted as follows
Colorado Springs
P. O. Box 311 80901 (719) 578-9092
TDD AVAILABLE

Pueblo
P. O. Box 3277 81005 (719) 561-2616

Alamosa
P. O. Box 1370 81101 (719) 589-8412
Toll Free in 719 area code:
1-800-241-5468

FOR HIV TESTING, PRE-POST TEST COUNSELING:
El Paso Cty Health Dpt. (719) 578-3148
Otero Cty Health Dept. (719) 384-2584
Pueblo Health Dept. (719) 544-8376
Valley-Wide Health Services, Inc-Alamosa (719) 589-5161

AGENCIES FUNDED THROUGH THE SOUTHERN COLORADO AIDS CONSORTIUM
El Paso Cty Health Dpt. (719) 578-3148
Pikes Peak Hospice (719) 633-3400
S.E.T. of Colo. Spgs. (719) 630-5476
Visiting Nurse's Agency Association
(719) 577-4448

GILL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES

$650,000 In Grants

28 Colorado, Rural and National Programs Receive Funding

The Gill Foundation today announced $650,000 in grants to 28 local Colorado, rural area, and national organizations. The grants culminate the Gill Foundation's most recent grantmaking cycle which is conducted three times a year. This cycle includes grants to 15 organizations not previously funded by the Gill Foundation.

The largest percentage of the grants support organizations responding to the needs of gay men and lesbians and HIV/AIDS prevention and care. In addition, over $100,000 of the grants support programs targeted at the broader issue of social justice and civil rights.

Katherine Pease, Executive Director of the Gill Foundation said, "We are proud to support the work of such a broad cross-section of organizations. Many of these programs are unique and innovative and many of our grantees do not have access to other traditional sources of funding".

Added Pease, "It is important to us to support the primary targeted program areas of the Gill Foundation: gay men and lesbians and HIV/AIDS. It is also important to encourage the work of many others who are active on the issues of social justice and creating a better society".

The Gill Foundation is a national philanthropic organization based in Colorado Springs. Tim Gill, founder and chairman of Quark Inc., a computer software company, established the Gill Foundation in 1994 to respond to the needs of under-served and under-funded communities in their struggle for equality. The foundation focuses its grantmaking on activities and organizations serving gay men and lesbians; people living with AIDS; and other minorities. The next deadline for submitting grant applications is September 30, 1997.

Colorado Grants

Boulder County AIDS Project — Boulder — Provides HIV/AIDS client services and prevention education. Grant for $24,000 including technical assistance.

The Chinook Fund — Denver — Chinook partnership of activists, donors, and social change organizations dedicated to creating a just and equitable society. Grant for $30,000 to hire a Development Director.

Denver Museum of Natural History* — Denver — Supports a national touring exhibit about AIDS in October, November and December, designed as an age-appropriate interactive program to educate schoolchildren about HIV/AIDS. Grant for $20,000.

Only One* — Boulder — Supports a gathering of two-spirited people (gay and lesbian Native Americans) in June. Grant for $3,000 to support retreat.

Urban Peak — Denver — Urban Peak is a drop-in center and overnight shelter for runaway and homeless youth ages 14-20. On an average day they serve 50 youth. Grant for $10,000 to fund part of the salary for a gay and lesbian specialist; $5,000 to fund general operations; and $20,000 for capital development.

Non-Urban Area Grants, Outside of Colorado

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) — Boston — GLAD is a regional legal services organization. Grant for $20,000 for general operations.

GLUE New Mexico — Statewide annual conference of gay men and lesbians in New Mexico. Grant for $7,100 to support conference.

Maine Speak-Out — Portland, ME — Statewide effort to educate the community about gay and lesbian issues. Grant for $5,000 for general operations.

Marriage Project* — Hawaii — This organization is conducting education around the issue of same-sex marriage. Grant for $10,000 for general operations.

PREP Education Fund* — St. Louis, MO — This organization provides community resources, public speaking, education and advocacy on gay and lesbian issues. A 2 year restricted challenge grant for $20,000 to help support a statewide rural outreach staff position.

Southern States Grants

Community Connections* — Community Connections is a monthly gay and lesbian newspaper serving 17 mountain counties in North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina. $3,000 restricted technology grant and copy of QuarkXPress.

Kentucky Fairness Alliance* — Louisville, KY — The Alliance is a 700 member statewide network of grassroots activists. They provide technical assistance, media skill development, strategic planning, and fundraising. $5,000 grant for general operations.

Southerners on New Ground (SONG)* — Louisville, KY — SONG is a progressive organization which has been working to provide leadership, skills and networking to southern organizations to identify connections between homophobia, racism, and economic issues. A $7,500 matching grant for development of SONG's base of support.

GILL FOUNDATION

Women's Project* — Little Rock, AR and Portland OR — Organization that represents women of color, poor women, aged women, teenage mothers, lesbians, women in prison, and etc. Grant for $5,000 to help publish a second printing of the book Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism by Susanne Pharr.

National Grants

AIDS Action Foundation* — Washington, DC — AIDS Action provides national public policy advocacy for AIDS related issues and for people living with AIDS. Grant for $25,000 to support general operations.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)* — Washington, DC — GLAAD is a gay and lesbian media watch-dog organization. Grant for $20,000 for general operations.

Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation — Washington, DC — The foundation provides non-partisan training for openly gay or lesbian candidates running for elected office. $30,000 matching grant and technical assistance.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation — Washington DC — HRC advocates and conducts public education on gay and lesbian issues. Grant for $100,000 for general operations.

Mother's Voices* — New York — An organization of mothers of people living with AIDS. They are active on issues of prevention, education, research and treatment. $10,000 grant for general operations.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) — Washington DC — NGLTF is the nation's oldest gay and lesbian rights organization. $60,000 grant to fund annual Creating Change Conference and a statewide organization effort.

National Lesbian and Gay Health Association — Washington, DC — Serves as a coalition of major gay and lesbian health clinics across the country and serves a s federal advocacy service. Grant is a $35,000 challenge grant to fund hiring a development director.

National Native American AIDS Prevention Center* — Oakland, CA —The organization provides education and client services to Native Americans nationwide. A grant for $15,000 to support general operations.

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention* — San Francisco — The Task Force is the nation's leading organization providing HIV/AIDS services to gay men of color. $20,000 to fund Recreating Our Future, a collaborative effort to reduce the number of new HIV infections among gay men of color.

Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (NWC) — Seattle — NWC is organized to counter bigotry movements and to create communities where all people are treated equal. $10,000 matching grant.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay (PFLAG) — Washington, DC — PFLAG is a national organization which is expanding its field and fundraising operations. Grant for $50,000; $25,000 in 1998; and $25,000 in 1999.

People for the American Way* — Washington, DC — This organization is dedicated to protecting pluralism, individuality, and freedom of thought, expression and religion. Grant for $15,000 for general operations.

Project Inform* — San Francisco — Project Inform disseminates HIV/AIDS treatment information throughout the country. Grant for $25,000 to support general operations.

* = Organizations not previously funded by the Gill Foundation

The Gill Foundation may be addressed at:

8. South Nevada Suite 303,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903 Telephone (719) 473-4455

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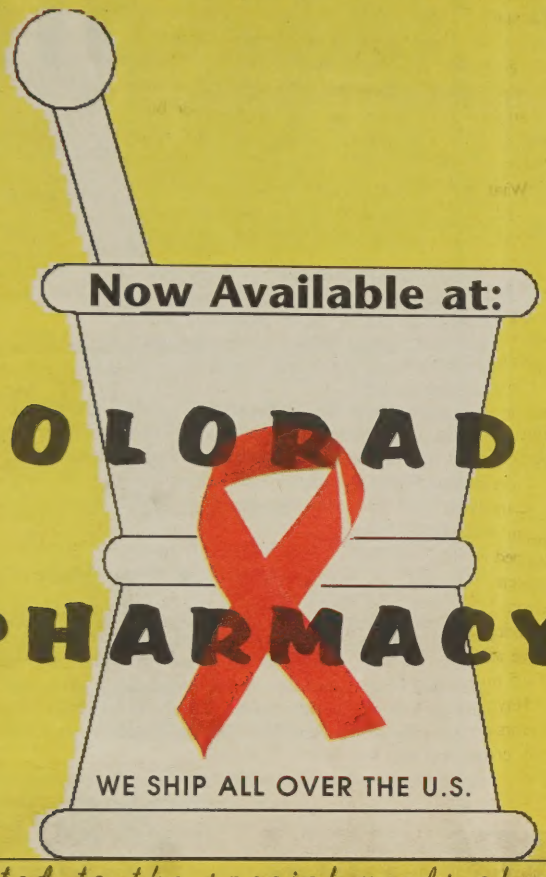

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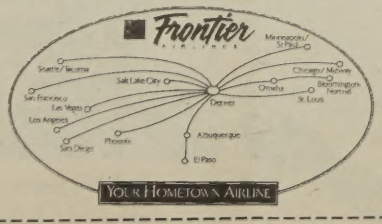
3. Designate Ground Zero as the organization you wish to benefit.
4. *Book your reservation as you normally would. The donation applies to every ticket-even those issued with sales fares!*
5. You ticket will be issued electronically, with a confirmation receipt faxed to you if you wish.
6. *Frontier will issue a quarterly statement and payment to Ground Zero for every trip flown on your behalf.*
7. Tell your family and friends!! The more people we have flying on our behalf, the more money we can raise!
8. *Clip this section and keep it in your wallet for easy reference!*



LIVING FREE IN NEW ENGLAND

by Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Washington D.C. The civil rights sweep of New England is now complete. All six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont) will soon ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Add Hawaii, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia to the mix, and nearly one out of four people in the country live where discrimination based on sexual orientation is outlawed.

While extremists threaten to challenge Maine's civil rights law, remember it was only two years ago that Mainers out-organized the Right and defeated a vicious initiative that would have written gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals out of that state's constitution. New Hampshire not only passed its civil rights bill this year, but trounced a hostile anti-marriage bill that would have banned recognition of marriages performed in other states as well. Rhode Island activists defeated a same-gender marriage ban. Hate crimes bills were introduced in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, strong efforts are underway to repeal the states' sodomy laws.

Massachusetts is in a strong position to enact statewide domestic partner legislation, and Vermont can already boast of this accomplishment. Vermont has enacted more pro-gay legislation than any other state in the nation, leading Vermonters to say that theirs is the safest state in the country.

Sure, Northhampton, Massachusetts remains the undisputed lesbian capital of the United States and Provincetown is our community's summer resort. And yes, the region is peppered with colleges and universities that are vibrant centers of youth organizing. But by no means was the work of New Englanders easy or complete Connecticut and Rhode Island have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation. Massachusetts and Rhode Island still ban opposite and same-sex sodomy. Maine and New Hampshire ban same-gender marriage and these bans are still pending in legislatures in Connecticut and Vermont. New Hampshire bans adoption and foster care by gay men and lesbians. Legislatively, the region has miles to go on issues related to our families and our relationships.

My colleague Sue Hyde is the NGLTF Field Organizer for New England. She says that New England, the cradle of the American Revolution, is also the cradle of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender revolution. I think that New Hampshire's motto "Live Free or Die" has helped frame the picture.

But the truth is, our New England sisters and brothers have a long history of organizing and all of us should pay attention. Look no further than the feat of activists in New Hampshire getting the Catholic Diocese of Manchester to support civil rights for gays. And they've taught us, we must be prepared to organize on a number of fronts at once. As we beat back the same-gender marriage bans or ballot measures (even if we've lost a fight already), we must keep our eyes on the prize. We can move forward comprehensive civil rights bills, repeal sodomy bans, pass hate crimes laws and build our communities at the same time. Each step provides important momentum in moving our communities forward to a place where there is freedom, dignity, and social justice for all. Gains in civil equality are an integral piece of a larger picture of full cultural acceptance and appreciation of diversity for all people.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change.

A MESSAGE FROM REV. NORI ROST Pastor The Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community

When Freud was in his heyday he coyly posed the question "What is it women want?" He seemed never to be able to figure it out. But it's really no great mystery. Women want what people of color want, what disabled people want, what all other marginalized people want: to be treated equally under the law and in society, with the same dignity and respect accorded to those whose skin happens to be white and whose gender happens to be male.

I thought about Freud's question recently when the Colorado Legislature once again voted to ban same sex marriages in our state. It seems as if the rhetoric regarding this issue raises a similar question: what is it that gays and lesbians want?

Some would have us believe that the fight to have our relationships legally recognized is part of a deeper insidious plot to take over the country and destroy the family. Others would answer the question by saying we want to flaunt our "perversion" publicly without fear of reprisal. Still others would say we want nothing less than a complete redefinition of marriage and family and that's just not okay.

As a lesbian in a committed relationship with a life partner, I'd like to take a stab at answering this prosaic question. What do gays and lesbians want? Why would we want the right to legally marry? It's certainly not to get wedding gifts--we already have enough toaster ovens. So what is it then, that makes this such a burning issue? Simply this: we, too, want to be treated equally under the law and in society. The Big Lie, of course, is that we want "special rights." It seems to me as if the only people with special rights are heterosexuals. They have special rights that allow them to legally marry and enjoy the societal and legal benefits solely based on gender. They also have special rights that protect them from being fired from a job or evicted from housing because they are heterosexual. They have the special right of being able to adopt the child of their spouse in every state. They have special rights that allow them to make medical decisions for their spouse should he or she become incapacitated. Those same special rights allow them the ability to inherit their spouses' estate should their spouse die.

In fact, the special rights of heterosexuals go on and on. Rights that are not afforded to gays and lesbians, although we are bound by law to pay taxes that fund a government which refuses to acknowledge us.

What is it that gays and lesbians want? I would rather ask What is it that heterosexuals want? What is it that the Colorado Legislature wants? A monopoly on marriage licenses? The continued power to oppress? I truly don't understand. What is gained by denying rights to a segment of our population?

I find it ironic this vote occurred on the same day Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Weisel was in town speaking about the tragedy of the Holocaust. Dr. Weisel noted that several years before the war was officially begun that Hitler could have been stopped many times if only people had spoken out and governments took action. Hitler made a move and when no one protested he made his next move and so on ending with the death of 6.5 million people.

Have we learned nothing from the horrors perpetrated against those whose only crime was that they didn't fit the mold of the "Aryan race"?

In his speech, Dr. Weisel quoted the author Franz Kafka who said "When a Jew is slapped in the face it is humanity that falls." This piece of legislation may be a slap in the face of the gay and lesbian community but it is indeed humanity who will stagger under the force of it's blow.

It is always disheartening when any government garners its forces not to do good but to oppress. The only winners in this battle are ignorance and fear.

I encourage each of us to pray and work for a government and society that puts respect and dignity of each person above intolerance and oppression. When that happens, there will be liberty and justice for all. And that, really is what we want.

May God bless you this month.

Revrost@aol.com

A Picture Perfect Community

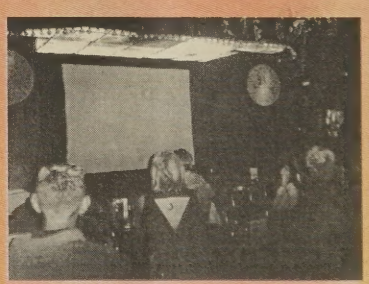
Straight or Gay

There are a lot of great people in Colorado Springs

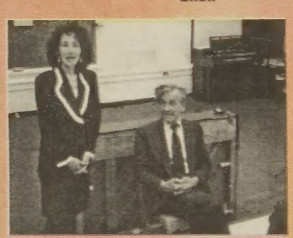
Kim and Nori Meet Dr. Wiesel at reception

Sally and friend (whoa) hand out carnations at True Colors Ellen

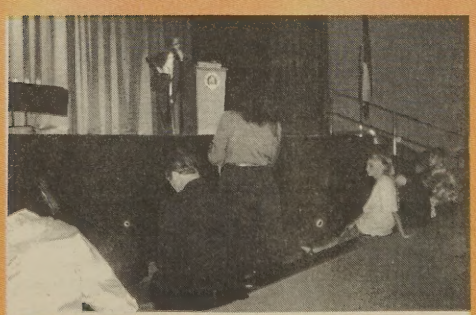
Frank, and Sue (standing) talk to Nori and Kim at Wiesel reception at the Antlers Hotel



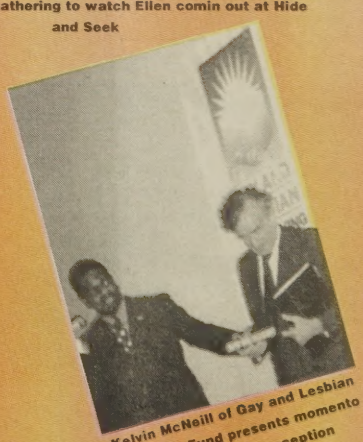
Gathering to watch Ellen comin out at Hide and Seek



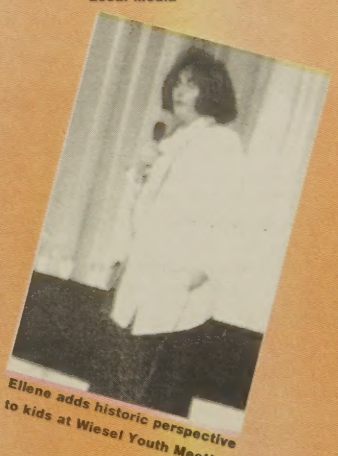
Jody Alyn introduces Dr. Wiesel to Local Media



Art Linkletter use to have a segment called "Kids say the darndest thing." Well, they also ask the greatest question. Hundreds attended Wiesel Youth gathering and were not to shy to ask the hard ones.



Kelvin McNeill of Gay and Lesbian Outgiving Fund presents momento to Dr. Wiesel at reception



Ellene adds historic perspective to kids at Wiesel Youth Meeting

Transgender Connection

by Carrie Urban
Transgender Connection: A Digest of Current News, Stories, Information--Local, National, and International.

INTRODUCTION

Transgender Connection presents and discusses selected news, stories, and information about the transgender community. If you think some matter is particularly important right now, call Ground Zero, ask for Julie, and let her know.

Carrie Urban runs a popular gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community bulletin board, "Celestial Light BBS", 719-475-0983, 300-28.8K baud, that operates across four echomail networks nationwide.

PERSONAL NOTE..

My cousin and I had a wonderful time at California Unity, on the Queen Mary, in Long Beach, CA. We went to seminars together, ate great food, took a ship tour, and even visited the Titanic Historical Society (which was having a convention, as well). I introduced her to many of my friends, some from other conventions. As it was the last time, I experienced no harassment, locally, or in California. If you've never been on the Queen Mary, it's a trip you must make at least once.

TRANSGENDER DEFINITIONS..

A good friend informs me that there's a fair amount of confusion out there, especially in the gay community, about the buzzwords used in the transgender community. I provide a few basic definitions below. One could write an entire chapter on terminology. See the end of the article for a comprehensive reference.

The following deals only with the gender of the individual. Sexual orientation further describes the person, but is totally separate from gender identity (for example, a transsexual lesbian, a male-to-female transsexual with a lesbian sexual orientation). For simplicity, I leave it to the reader to add such.

transsexual - a male/female planning to live full-time as a woman/man who has undertaken, by appropriate methods, through appropriate channels, to effect a sex change which involves surgery. The methods differ by sex, the treatment course, by individual. The key point is that the gender change is permanent.

transgenderist - transsexual who completes every phase of above except surgery. All below gender changes are transitory....

cross dresser - a male/female who enjoys dressing part-time in clothes of the opposite sex.

drag queen/king - a crossdresser who does so for some professional purpose (for example, stage performer who cross dresses as part of an act).

fetishist - a crossdresser for whom sexual arousal is the primary purpose thereof.

This is just a thumbnail sketch. A more detailed portrait of transgender terminology can be found in "From Masculine to Feminine and All Points in Between," by Jennifer Anne Stevens. Read the Introduction chapter. Whew!!

Members of Congress Begin to Join in the Fight for Gender Rights

Credit: InYourFace, Online News-Only Service for Gender Activism

"For the first time, members of Congress have gone on record about trans violence as 60 members of the transgender, intersex, lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities converged on Capitol Hill today for GenderPAC's 2nd National Gender Lobby Day. At present, 3 members of Congress have spoken out about violence against transpeople with the possibility of a half a dozen more making statements in the next week. Said GenderPAC Exec. Dir. Riki Ann Wilchins, "This marks the first time we've actually been able to get any member of congress to speak publicly on a trans-related issue. But now that we're 'on the map,' all kinds of things become possible. We owe a real debt to the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force for supporting our efforts to gain this breakthrough." GenderPAC plans to release a complete list of signatories, once all signers have okayed a public statement....GenderPAC has also requested a meeting with the Department of Justice to discuss the need for federal monitoring of hate crimes against the transgender community."

Discussion: What could I say, when this story came across the desk, except W-O-W. In my head, I hear myself saying, Joel Hefley, are you reading this?? Part of this article was a figure, quoted by GenderPAC, from their first National Study on Transviolence (largest ever of its kind, and one in which I participated), which found that over 60% of respondents had survived assault of some kind (with a weapon, without a weapon, or sexual assault). I reluctantly admit I had some similar tales to tell.

It's good to see some Members of Congress standing up for the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender constituents in their districts.

Yours,

Carrie

Transgenders in Colorado Springs

The Transgender community in Colorado Springs is alive, well--and organized. A group has been meeting weekly since november and a core of regulars has formed. the name of the group is S.C.I.R.T.S (Southern Colorado Intra-Regional Transgendered Society).

About 20 male to female and (MTF) and 1 female to male (FTM) have met over the last six months. This group includes all levels of the transgendered community from cross-dressers who only dress at home to pre-operational transsexuals. Also the members represent a cross section of the colorado Springs community as they come from a wide range of educational and occupational backgrounds and include the disabled. Some are married, some are single. Their ages range from the twenties to the fifties.

The group seeks to provide a comfortable place for all transgenered people to meet, relax and become acquainted with others in this community. The weekly meetings are informal and all transgender people are welcome.

For additional information, contact Lisa Jo at 591-5860 or email to LisaJo03@aol.com or jamiechristine.@geocities.com.

(If interested in helping with the newsletter, please mention. We're looking for volunteers to help in writing it.)

Fiction

SANDRA'S SONG

by Felix D. Osborn

Chapter One

Sandra sat up in bed and rubbed her eyes. The negligee felt smooth against her body. She smoothed it out over her legs as she looked at the rays of sunlight coming in the window of her hotel room.

It was 10 minutes before the alarm was set to go off. Sandra was very excited about what this day would bing to her, so she slid across the bed and turned off the alarm. The feel of the negligee caused tingling against her body as she lifted herself out of bed.

This morning Sandra was going to spoil herself by having a bath. As the water filled the tub she examined herself in the mirror. The light blue negligee looked and felt so good on her body. She then slowly lifted it over her shoulders, allowing it to caress her as it rose.

As Sandra slid into the bathtub she thought about the past events that had now brought her here to this hotel, especially the last few months.

This was the first real day in Sandra's life and she really did not know what to expect. Last night when she arrived she checked in as Dan Ryder, for that is who she had been or who she was also.

Over the years,. Dan had worn various articles of women's clothing and had begun to wear more clothing more often. He realized that he was one of those men who is called a crossdresser. As he became more familiar with crossdressing he learned of the American Society for Gentle Living. ASGL had annual conventions with special programs for first time registrants.

During the last year Dan had become aware that many crossdressers live part of their lives as women. They would change into women at night or on weekends, or even trade places with their male lives at times. As he considered this and became more bold in his crossdressing, Dan realized that there would be sessions on applying makeup, color and texture, wig selection, and fitting of clothes.

The convention literature advised the registrants that during the entire convention they would be expected to dress as women. They could arrive and depart as their normal identity, but they would be their feminine self for the remainder of their stay.

The water was starting to turn cool so sandra stepped out of the tub and dried herself. She took an extra amount of time as she enjoyed the towel touching her skin. She rubbed her hair as she blew it dry. "Oh, this was going to be an exciting week," she mused to herself.

Chapter Two

Sandra looked over the clothes she had brought with her. She hoped that there would be someone at the convention to help her pick out a few new outfits. Sandra selected the blue print skirt outfit. She pulled the blue panty hose up and slipped into the outfit. She was so happy as she looked into the mirror and admired the person looking back at her.

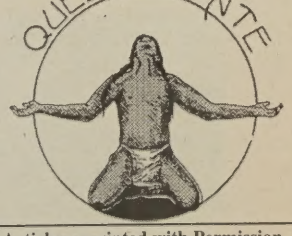
It was time to go and Sandra felt a little nervous as she stepped out the door of her room. What if this were a big prank pulled on her by Dan's friends and relatives. there he would be all dressed up and boy would he be roasted. To be sure he would be fried. Sandra put these fears behind her and took the elevator to the second floor, where the first session of the convention would be held.

The elevator was empty, but as she stepped off she saw many women with short hair and knew that she was in the right place. The excitement and joy was so overwhelming that she leaned against the elevator and took in the sights of many men dressed in women's attire.

The first session of the convention started and the registrants were given a packet of information containing the location of rooms and times to go for the session on makeup, hair preparation, lingerie, clothes selection and how to act in public. All of the people were welcomed and given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the people around them. Sandra met a number of men in their thirties that day.

During the first two days Sandra attended all of the session and learned a lot about makeup and hair styling. They were taught which makeup would be the best for them, and how to remove it, as they would not want any trace of it on them during the day. Sandra kept trying to get her hair to appear like a lady's but she finally gave up. The hair stylist helped her pick out a hair piece that she could wear as a part of her own hair. She also selected a longer wig for those times when she wanted to feel more elegant.

To her joy, the hotel had received a large selection of clothes for the ASGL convention. There were both men and women sales people to help the registrants select a number of different kinds outfits from athletic wear to evening gowns. Sandra selected three outfits to add to her wardrobe. **(Cont. P. 17 See Sandra)**



Articles reprinted with Permission from A TALKING LEAF Newsletter of the Two-Spirit Native American Coalition of POCAAN*

The latest issue of *A Talking Leaf* did not arrive in time. Hopefully, we will have it in time for the next issue.

JUNE 1997

Send your listings to GZ CALENDAR, P. O. Box 1982

COS CO 80901 FAX: (719) 635-6106 V (719) 635-6086

Please, Make Submissions by the 8th in July

1 Sunday

*PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
*COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
All Soul's Unitarian
PPGLCC BOWL. LEAGUE 471-4GAY
*DAVID'S Beer Bust 2-7p.m.
*HIDE & SEEK Gay theme movies 2 p.m.
Beer Bust 5-8 p.m. Karaoke

2 Monday

*GAY AA
*DAVID'S Ladies Half Price 7p.m. to closing
*HIDE & SEEK Two Fers to 8p.m.

3 Tuesday

*PUEBLO AFTER 2 Meet McClelland Lib
*5:15*MCCFellowship Care Group 7p
Call 473-1628
*SCAP Aerobics 5:30
*Transgender Support Group 471-4GAY
*DAVID"S Country Night--Beer Bust

4 Wednesday

*HIDE & SEEK Two fers all day Free Pool
*THIS WAY OUT KRCC 6:30
*INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
5:30PM McMasters Center, El Paso
County Health Department 6:30
*MCC LIVE CARE FELLOWSHIP
**ALL YOU CAN DRINK NITE H & S
50 CENTS DRAFT NITE True Colors Free Pool
DAVID'S 80's NIGHT
HIDE & SEEK 25Cent Drink Night

5 Thursday

*MCC LIVING CARE (Daytime)
*TRUE COLOR COUNTRY DANCING
Happy Hour
*PPGLCC BINGO
*HIV+ Mens Group Call 578-9092
*DAVID'S Karaoke
*HIDE&SEEK TWO FERS TIL 8
*SLIGHTLY OLDER LADIES 471-4GAY

6 Friday

*GAY AA
*TRUE COLORS Happy Hour 5-7 PM
*HIDE&SEEK Two fers til 8 Lady
Cassondra/Misty McCrae Show

7 Saturday

*DIGNITY MASS Sacred Heart 7 pm
*Womens Social Group 471-4-GAY
*TRUE COLORS AFTER HOURS 2-4a.m.
*HIDE&SEEK Two fers til 8 Lady Cassondra and Misty McCrae Show
All Male Review

8 Sunday

*PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
*COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
All Soul's Unitarian
PPGLCC BOWL. LEAGUE 471-4GAY
*DAVID'S Beer Bust 2-7p.m.
*HIDE & SEEK Gay theme movies 2 p.m.
Beer Bust 5-8 p.m. Karaoke
*DIGNITY BRUNCH Colorado Grill 11 a.

9 Monday

*GAY AA
*DAVID'S ladies Half Price 7p.m. to closing
*HIDE & SEEK Two Fers to 8p.m.

10 Tuesday

*5:15*MCCFellowship Care Group 7p
Call 473-1628
*SCAP Aerobics 5:30
*Transgender Support Group 471-4GAY
*DAVID"S Country Night--Beer Bust
*HIDE & SEEK Two fers all day Free Pool

11 Wednesday

*THIS WAY OUT KRCC 6:30
*INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
5:30PM McMasters Center, El Paso
County Health Department 6:30
*MCC LIVE CARE FELLOWSHIP
**ALL YOU CAN DRINK NITE H & S
50 CENTS DRAFT NITE True Colors Free Pool
*DAVID'S 80's NIGHT
*HIDE & SEEK 25Cent Drink Night
*PFLAG MEETING
FIRST TIMERS 6 P.M. ALL 7
Speaker Marcia Hunter

12 Thursday

*MCC LIVING CARE (Daytime)
*TRUE COLOR COUNTRY DANCING
Happy Hour
*PPGLCC BINGO
*HIV+ Mens Group Call 578-9092
*DAVID'S Karaoke
*HIDE&SEEK TWO FERS TIL 8
*SLIGHTLY OLDER LADIES 471-4GAY

13Friday

*GAY AA
*TRUE COLORS Happy Hour 5-7 PM
*HIDE&SEEK Two fers til 8

14 Saturday

*Womens Social Group 471-4-GAY
*TRUE COLORS AFTER HOURS 2-4a.m.
*HIDE&SEEK Two fers til 8
*JUNETEENTH Memorial Pk Call 475-7255 Willie for Booth and participation
*PGLCC HWY CLEANUP 471-4GAY

15 Sunday

PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
*COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
All Soul's Unitarian
PPGLCC BOWL. LEAGUE 471-4GAY
*DAVID'S Beer Bust 2-7p.m.
*HIDE & SEEK Gay theme movies 2 p.m.
Beer Bust 5-8 p.m. Karaoke
*JUNETEENTH Celebration See the 14th

16 Monday

*GAY AA
*DAVID'S ladies Half Price 7p.m. to closing
*HIDE & SEEK Two Fers to 8p.m.

17 Tuesday

*5:15*MCCFellowship Care Group 7p
Call 473-1628
*SCAP Aerobics 5:30
*Transgender Support Group 471-4GAY
*DAVID"S Country Night--Beer Bust
*HIDE & SEEK Two fers all day Free Pool

18 Wednesday

*THIS WAY OUT KRCC 6:30
*INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
5:30PM McMasters Center, El Paso
County Health Department 6:30
*MCC LIVE CARE FELLOWSHIP
**ALL YOU CAN DRINK NITE H & S
50 CENTS DRAFT NITE True Colors Free Pool
*DAVID'S 80's NIGHT
*HIDE & SEEK 25Cent Drink Night

19 Thursday

MCC LIVING CARE (Daytime)
*TRUE COLOR COUNTRY DANCING
Happy Hour
*PPGLCC BINGO
*HIV+ Mens Group Call 578-9092
*DAVID'S Karaoke
*HIDE&SEEK TWO FERS TIL 8
*SLIGHTLY OLDER LADIES

20 Friday

*GAY AA
*TRUE COLORS Happy Hour 5-7 PM
*HIDE&SEEK Two fers til 8
COURT SHOW RUN FOR AIDS

21 Saturday

*NOW GARAGE SALE Call 570-1153
*DIGNITY MASS Sacred Heart 7 pm
*Womens Social Group 471-4-GAY
*TRUE COLORS AFTER HOURS 2-4a.m.
*HIDE&SEEK Two fers til 8
COURT SHOW Run for AIDS

22 Sunday

PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
*COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
All Soul's Unitarian
PPGLCC BOWL. LEAGUE 471-4GAY
*DAVID'S Beer Bust 2-7p.m.
*HIDE & SEEK Gay theme movies 2 p.m.
Beer Bust 5-8 p.m. Karaoke

23 Monday

*GAY AA
*DAVID'S ladies Half Price 7p.m. to closing
*HIDE & SEEK Two Fers to 8p.m.
*5:15*MCCFellowship Care Group 7p
Call 473-1628
*SCAP Aerobics 5:30

23 Tuesday

*5:15*MCCFellowship Care Group 7p
Call 473-1628
*SCAP Aerobics 5:30
*Transgender Support Group 471-4GAY
*DAVID"S Country Night--Beer Bust
*HIDE & SEEK Two fers all day Free Pool

14 Wednesday

*THIS WAY OUT KRCC 6:30
*INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
5:30PM McMasters Center, El Paso
County Health Department 6:30
*MCC LIVE CARE FELLOWSHIP
**ALL YOU CAN DRINK NITE H & S
*50 CENTS DRAFT NITE True Colors
Free Pool
*DAVID'S 80's NIGHT
*HIDE & SEEK 25Cent Drink Night

The rest of the Calendar repeats earlier days except: ELITCHES GAY DAY June 26 GLBT LEGAL COALITION SEMINAR (see p. 7) July 26/ JUNE WEDDING June 28/ DENVER PRIDE June 29

Resource Guide

ANTI- VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP)
(719) 338-8899
A 24-hour confidential crisis hotline. If you are a victim of verbal harassment, physical violence, discrimination, domestic violence/partner abuse, sexual assault, etc., call the AVP.

CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE 444-5896

CITIZENS PROJECT
P.O. Box 2085 COS CO 80901 (719) 520-9899
Monitoring religious right activities with emphasis on the maintenance of the separation of church and state

COLO. GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (CGRA)
P. O. Box 15504 COS CO 80935 (719) 576-CGRA

CYBER BBS
A computer Board serving the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Community.Colorado Springs: (719) 385-0111 or Denver: (303) 595-0111 or help and free windows software.

DAVIDS
2125 E Fountain Blvd Colo Spngs CO 444-0400
Where everyone is welcome to Meet, Drink, Eat, Talk, Play, Dance, Relax, and just be Themselves.

DIGNITY
P.O. Box 1172 COS CO 80901 (719) 635-5773
An organization of glbt Catholics, their families and friends. ACTIVITIES: Mass the 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colo. Springs. A brunch is held on the 2nd Sunday, 11:30 a.m., at the Colorado Grill Restaurant.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION
(719) 633-3819 (800) 500-1119

EL PASO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ....STD CLINIC 578-3148
.....DRUG & ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAM 578-3150

* EVANGELICALS CONCERNED RESOURCE CENTER
P. O. BOX 62466 COS CO 80962
A resource for materials involving Christianity and the Gay and Lesbian Community

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER (Denver)
1455 Ammons St #100 Lakewood CO 80001 (303) 202-6466
Transgender Outreach & Education

* GROUND ZERO INC (GZ)
P. O. Box 1982 COS CO 80901 email grndzeroco@aol.com
V (719) 635-6086 F (719) 635-6106
Ground Zero maintains a full-time office relocated in the new gay center (125 N. Parkside.) See our mission statement on P 2

HIDE AND SEEK (H&S)
505 W. Colorado Ave. COS CO 80903
(719) 634-9303
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*INSIDE/OUT YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP
An adolescent support group for those questioning their sexuality. Weekly meetings and activities. Call 578-3160 for more information.

LA GENTE UNIDA
P.O. Box 11714, Denver, CO 80211 (303) 831-6086
La Gente Unida is dedicated to serving the needs of the Gay Latino and Latina Community

NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE
ENGLISH (800) 342-AIDS SPANISH (800) 344-SIDA
TTY (800) 243-8922S

N.O.W. EL PASO COUNTY
570-1163

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD
(800) 342-2437

NATIONAL YOUTH CRISIS LINE
(800) 448-4663

* NEW PHAZES (NP)
P. O. Box 6485 COS CO 80934 (719) 634-0236
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Pueblo CO 81003 (719) 583-4311
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P-FLAG COS CO
P.O. BOX 10076 COS CO 80932 VM (719) 575-8658

P-FLAG PUEBLO
P. O. BOX 4484 Pueblo CO 81003 (719) 545-7426
Support groups for family and friends of lesbians and gays, dedicated to the preservation of families in loving relationships.

* PIKES PEAK GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (PPGLCC)
Helpline 471-4GAY VM email PPGLCC2@aol.com
P. O. Box 607 COS CO 80901 719) 471-4429

PIKES PEAK JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION
235 E Fountain Blvd COS CO 80903 (719) 632-6180

* PIKES PEAK METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)
730 N. Tejon St COS CO 80903 (719) 634-3771
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PROOF
(719) 560-0670 (Eugenia)
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SOUTHERN COLO. AIDS PROJECT(S-CAP)
514 S. Tejon St. COS CO 80903 V (719) 578-9092

SOUTHERN COLO. ITRA-REGIONAL TRANSGENDERED SOCIETY (S.C.I.R.T.S.)
For Info, Call Lisa Jo at 591-5860
Support group for MTF and FTM

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOT LINE
(719) 596-5433

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* UNITED COURT OF THE PIKES PEAK EMPIRE (UCPPE)
P. O. Box 6925 COS CO 80904, (719) 447-1092

WOMENS SOCIAL GROUP (WSG)
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YOUTH STREET WORKS PROGRAM
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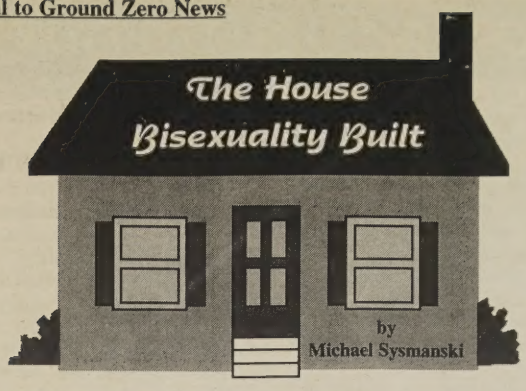

I'm sitting here looking out my home office into the famed Hollywood Hills of Southern California with flowering trees and grand estates on all three sides — Bette Davis' house across the street, Madonna's place just over the hill under the Hollywood sign, Errol Flynn's mansion at the top of the hill — I hear the symphony across the street from the Hollywood Bowl and think how fortunate I am. See, I own this five-level Mediterranean San Francisco style 1920's house that snakes high above the 39 geranium-lined steps to my front door. And sure, that seems lucky for a guy in his early 30s who free-lances his writing for a living. But the way I paid for this house is a painful story, and one that I don't repeat too often. I got this house because I came out as bisexual. I joke that it's the "house that bisexuality built," but I don't really laugh after I say it.

It was on my birthday September 1 two years ago that my Dad told me he didn't think I was his son. It was bad enough entering my third decade, but Dad declared, "You don't look like me, you don't act like me. I think your mother had an affair with the milkman. I want you to take a blood test to prove that you're not my son."

Being gay, he says, is bad enough. But bisexual! That's absurd, that's confusing, that's freak show material. Anyway, it got me on talk shows.

Dad's announcement amused me at first, then stung. I called Mom. My mother told me that a few days before, the two of them sat down to watch a videotape I sent them that chronicled my recent television appearances about bisexuality. I talked about how I had to "come out" twice — once to the heterosexual world, once to the gay world, and felt rejected by both.

Just after Dad heard Phil Donahue proclaim: "Bisexuals have problems, they're not accepted by the straight community, and they're shunned by gays and lesbians" and then Phil mentioned my full name. Dad ejected the tape. He could watch no more. What surprises me so much about his reaction is that when I came out to him as gay five years before, he seemed to take it in stride. It wasn't a surprise I don't think, but he kept asking about all those girls I had dated. My parents met and liked my boyfriend at the time; smart, wealthy, successful, masculine. But Dad didn't want to talk much about that relationship, and he didn't want to see my articles in The Advocate, Frontiers or Genre or any gay publications I wrote for, even though those stories were mixed among my big-name celebrity profiles and award-winning news stories all stuffed under my living room table. We discussed how he feels homosexuality is genetic and how no one is to blame. I thought we were long over all their anger, arguments, embarrassment and tears when I came out as gay in my mid-20s.

A week after my birthday a few years ago, my Dad brought up the request for a blood test again. The anger and hurt flushed into me again. I refused.

"I'll give you money," he said.

"You think you can buy me? I'm insulted at the whole idea you want to prove that I'm not part of the family," I shouted.

"I'll give you $10,000," he said soberly. I hesitated.

Until that moment, I had always felt accepted and part of our family, there was no choice. But now he seemed to be bribing my way out of the family because I'm going public as a bisexual. I've written about it in magazines, gabbed about it on talk shows, defended it in forums, detailed it at lectures, screamed about it to friends. It wasn't concern for my health or my HIV status. If I wasn't biologically his son, he could explain it off to his friends and save face.

My Mom — who came with me to the March on Washington and last year lectured with me at the Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians national conference — explains my Dad's concerns. "If it's inborn in you and you can't choose who you like, that's something we can accept, but if you like both then you do have a choice, and he takes it personally if you choose a guy."

My Dad is more succinct, "If you can choose, why would you choose the wrong way?"

When I came out as gay, he hung his head in faux despair and told neighbors it was something I couldn't help. It was as if I lost a leg.

My Dad is ultra-Republican, religiously Catholic, a Ross Perot fan, a second-generation proud Pole who worked a white collar profession and retired in Clearwater, Florida. He's sometimes a bigot and sometimes a heavy drinker but he won't admit to either. Since I was old enough to understand, he told me I am the last one to carry on our family name.

My Dad is an accountant and a miser, and he's not wealthy enough to be throwing around 10-grand, so I knew he must really want me to be tested. I also knew that I had to make a point with him about how much his request hurt me. I could be bought, I concluded, but it would have to make him hurt as much as I did. Hitting him in the wallet would definitely hurt.

I felt betrayed, hurt, disassociated. I didn't talk to him for months.

"You're still my son no matter what the outcome," Dad assured me months after the initial request when I would talk to him again.

"You won't disinherit me?" I asked.

"Of course not," he said. "I just need to know."

"You'll have to pay," I warned. "You won't get this easily."

"Twenty grand?" he offered.

"Fifty," I countered. "Dad, you know I've been saving up for a house, I'll take your stupid blood test if you pay the downpayment."

My Mom to this day is still furious at my father, but she understands his confusion. My parents live a few miles away from each other in a very right-wing retirement area where the favorite pastimes is for divorcees to get-together and lament about their children.

"It's not so much your sexuality as the fact that you're talking about it so openly," adds Mom, who assures me that I am a product of both of the people whom I've known as my parents for the past 30 years. In fact, she half-kids, "all the affairs I had were well after you kids were born."

My Dad says flatly, "You're embarrassing the family."

So, that's it! The bottom line for Dad's irrational attitude toward me is the very same reason I'm criticized by friends in the homosexual community — my chosen "family." My gay friends complain, "You're embarrassing (or diluting) 'the family' " or say, "Being bi is fine with me, but don't tell anyone else if you expect to get a date."

It's true, for someone who's labelled as being so promiscuous, my dating life has hit the skids since I've been openly bi. Straight women don't dare touch me and gay men shun me because they think I'll eventually leave them for the "easy" relationship. Truth is, I want a monogamous relationship with either a man or a woman and want to raise children with that partner no matter what they have or don't have between their legs.

It's hard being bisexual, no matter how hip Michael Stipe, Drew Barrymore or Newsweek have made it recently.

I was no less heterosexual when I came out as gay and I'm no less gay when I finally realized what it meant to be bisexual. It's simple: I recognize my physical and emotional attractions toward people of either sex and don't have to have them at the same time. If I settle on a partner, I prefer to choose to be with whomever he or she is — even though my eye may wander — and I won't feel I'm missing out any more than any married man who settles on one wife. Sure, for lots of people labeling themselves bisexual is a stepping stone to understanding they are gay. For me, being gay was a stepping stone to feeling comfortable with my bisexuality. So, when I'm in an opposite sex relationships, I'm just as gay, and I'm not betraying any "family." And when I'm with a guy, I'm not getting even with my Dad.

A little more than a year ago, Dad drew up a contract, faxed it to me and sent me $50,000 when I found this duplex in the hills.

"The only condition is that you take the genetics test when I'm ready to do it too," said Dad. "And you'll let your family visit you?"

"Sure, whichever one wants to visit first," I said.

I wish both my families — my biological one and my chosen one — could just settle down and let me be. Being out doesn't mean wearing a "Bi & Proud" button all the time. It simply means that when I'm home for Christmas I want to be able to freely talk about the girls and guys I'm dating. When I'm at a gay club, I want to be able to mention a cute woman who turns my head. Bisexuals rarely feel fully out in either family, but that's the fault of the family. Thank goodness a younger generation is adding "bisexual" to the names of their clubs in colleges and high schools. Hurrah for all the centers, publications, parades and groups that are including "Bi" along with "Gay and Lesbian." Only then can we truly belong.

I cried after I signed my "contract" with my father to take the blood and genetics tests. I knew no matter what the outcome, nothing could ever be the same between us. He really didn't want me as part of him and he hesitates to visit.

"Do you have anything outside the house like naked statues of men?" Dad asked me the other day.

"No, Dad, and besides it would be naked statues of men and women."

"You wouldn't embarass me like that would you?" he asked.

"No, I won't put them up until after you leave," I joked.

People who hear this story mistakenly think my father and I are estranged. No, even now I talk to him at least every other day. We talk finances, movies, gardening, about my mother, about my sister and her husband — almost everything except who I'm dating, unless it's a woman. He invests my money, he does my taxes and we still spend Christmases together.

My father has a heart condition and hasn't yet been well enough to take the blood test, and the agreement is that we have to do it together. Until then, we'll talk about other things, and end our calls with "Love you."

Friends told me to disown him, strangers tell me he's crazy, but he is my father, the only one I know. He hasn't yet visited the house, but plans to come to California later this year to finally see it and to finally take the test.

What Dad doesn't know is that in the year I've lived here, this house has become a haven for bisexual activists who traveled through Los Angeles: bi authors, activists, psychologists, teachers, couples, grandmothers, youths, friends. I have a bisexual roommate upstairs and a bi-friendly hetero couple renting the bottom two floors. Bi Net and other bi organizations meet regularly in my living room, and much of the bi writing I do is from this office overlooking the hills.

"You really have 39 steps to get to your front door?" he asked.

"Yeah, Dad, it's on a hill."

"You did that so I can't visit, you know I can't make it up all those stairs very easily," he grumbled.

"Yeah Dad, my agent and I looked really hard for a place that you couldn't get in to," I said.

"I'll see you soon, son."

I have no doubt I am his son, just as I have no doubt that I'm part of my gay family, too. It doesn't matter who I'm dating, although for some reason it seems to matter to a whole lot of other people. I don't feel like I have to choose because there's no need to choose. I don't feel like I'm on a fence because there is no fence.

So, Mom, Dad and the rest of my extended family out there, I'm not embarrassing you. I just want to be open about my sexuality, my attractions, my relationships and my interests in an honest and full way. I want to be out, and that means all the way out. I don't feel like I'm in one family or another because I'm part of your family no matter what blood tests say. And, that's all that should matter.

On my latest birthday when I sounded a little lonely and depressed, my Dad called from Florida and tried to offer solace.

"You know you'll always have a place you can come home to," he offered.

"Yeah, I know Dad, you helped me buy it," I said flatly.

Michael Szymanski is a free-lance journalist based in Hollywood who writes for The Los Angeles Times, Entertainment Weekly, The New York Times Syndicate, Frontiers and many other publications. He is a facilitator at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Services Center, has lectured at bisexual conferences in New York, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. and wrote about bisexuality for "Dr. Ruth's Encyclopedia of Sex." He has appeared on more than two dozen talk shows including The Phil Donahue Show, Leeza Gibbons and Marilyn Kagan.

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HOMOCIDE

The recent case of murder suspect Andrew Cunanan has resulted in widespread media coverage, which occasionally rises to the challenge — but more often falls into the traps of homophobic bias. However rare, the emergence of a serial killer who happens to be gay is typically — and literally — "bad news."

To date, most news accounts have strenuously played up Andrew Cunanan's "gay connection" — that is; the suspect's possible homosexuality and his attacks on gay men. While these are certainly important and even objective facts, the emphasis given to this connection reveals a more subjective (and apparently phobic) spin.

In describing Cunanan and his first two victims, for example, the Associated Press (May 10) reported: "The motive for [the] slaying was unclear... but apparently all three men knew each other and all were gay." As used here, the significance of "gayness" to the crime is not quite clear.

When reporting on crime, the Associated Press does NOT identify heterosexuality in a similar fashion. Indeed, mainstream reporters would never think of indicating that a murderer and his victims "all knew each other, and all were STRAIGHT."

In a later account, the Associated Press (May 14) fared slightly better — leaving out the "gay" adjective, and simply describing Cunanan's victims as "a former lover and three other men." Similarly, "The New York Times" (May 14) reported that: "Madson and Cunanan, according to a fugitive warrant issued in Minnesota, had apparently been lovers."

In contrast, United Press International (May 7) reported that: "Authorities in Chicago County, Minnesota, have filed one murder count against Cunanan, 33, in the death of Madson, who reportedly was his gay lover." The phrase "GAY lover" is utterly superfluous, as the gender of Cunanan and his victim had already been made clear.

By far the worst use of the "gay" adjective came from Reuters, a leading international news service. According to Reuters' (May 10) lead: "A nationwide murder hunt for a Californian man suspected of killing two men in a gay lovers' quarrel as well as a wealthy businessman man in the Midwest switched to the East Coast Friday after the slaying of New Jersey caretaker."

Reuters further described the murdered gay couple as "reputed" lovers, as if homosexuality were also a crime. The article even went on to speculate (in the apparent absence of any evidence) that the killing spree was triggered in "a fit of jealousy by Cunanan, who was believed to have been involved in a homosexual triangle with the two men."

In the coverage of crime, such reporting panders to the incredible notion that homosexuality itself — and NOT homophobia — is dangerous and evil. Once again, it is worth noting that mainstream journalists NEVER refer to "straight lovers" or "straight triangles" when reporting on HETEROSEXUAL killing sprees.

This bias has plagued the trade with particular tenacity. Well-over a decade ago, the authors of "Talk Back! - The Gay Person's Guide to Media Action" suggested: "If John Hinckley had declared that he tried to assassinate Ronald Reagan in order to demonstrate his love for Robert DeNiro instead of for Jodie Foster, his HOMOSEXUALITY would have been a major news angle to the story. As it is, no one refers to his HETEROSEXUALITY."

The guidebook suggests that, as a general rule: "The press should either omit the homosexual/heterosexual adjective altogether, or else ROUTINELY use it in all cases — at which point most readers would be shocked to see how numerous are 'heterosexual' crimes."

With regard to the Cunanan case, a more subtle (and yet perhaps most significant) bias has emerged in the media's persistent attempt to situate the murderer at the heart of gay life, as a fixture — if not a representative — of urban homosexuality. News reports of Cunanan's presence in several major cities (San Diego, Chicago, New York, San Francisco) have routinely exaggerated his role as a "well-known" member of the "gay community."

Covering the case for the Associated Press (May 10), for instance, reporter Dana Calvo began her story by noting: "Andrew Phillip Cunanan was a known quantity in San Diego's gay community, a 'party boy' who tapped a seemingly endless cash flow that he spent on lavish meals and extravagant gifts." The article concludes with a quote from "hairstylist David Dwayne," who said of Cunanan: "He danced a lot. He danced without his shirt — you know the type. He was the typical party boy."

In a follow-up story, the Associated Press (May 14) again reported that: "Acquaintances of Cunanan describe him as a 'party boy' known in San Diego's gay community for having lots of money but working only as a part-time drug store clerk." The article actually cites just ONE "acquaintance," however — an anonymous "San Diego business owner who knows Cunanan."

Writing for the "San Francisco Examiner" (May 15), reporters Ray Delgado and Anastasia Hendrix took a similar slant. According to their lead: "San Franciscans who knew the man being sought nationally for four murders described him as a 'larger than life' bon vivant in gay circles — with a penchant for sadomasochism — who mingled with a professional, well-educated crowd and had an uncanny ability to remember names."

But just how many San Franciscan's did, in fact, know Cunanan? How large was this so-called "gay circle?" According to San Francisco homocide inspectors, of the city's vast homosexual population, "about 10 people" have reported any recent contact with Cunanan.

Like "gay circles," the "Examiner's" reference to sadomasochism is also more suggestive than substantive — and probably as (ir)relevant to this story as an aptitude for "remembering names." Nevertheless, several newspapers made a point of highlighting Cunanan's rumored "penchant." None offered any specific evidence to support their suggestion that, somehow, an interest in S&M had motivated these murders.

However subtle, such unfounded suggestions resonate in a society predisposed to homophobia and heterosexism. Through popular fiction, the "gay serial killer" has appeared repeatedly, in movies like "Cruising" and the TV series "Millennium." The bias "whispered" in mainstream newspapers is also loudly echoed by Right Wing hate media.

Citing misleading crime and mortality statistics, for example, a report from the American Family Association (April 1996) concludes: "There can be no doubt that the homosexual lifestyle is a dangerous one." Similar claims are made in "Murder, Violence and Homosexuality" — one of several propaganda pamphlets circulated widely by the Family Research Institute.

In many ways, the recent reporting on Andrew Cunanan is similar to another infamous case — Jeffrey Dahmer. Examining the media's coverage of that 1991 case, sociologist Martha Schmidt has found that "the primary focus in the construction of the discourse on the case was homosexuality. Gayness and the gay and lesbian community were used by both police officials and the press to explain why the crimes had occurred."

A homophobic emphasis on homosexuality — focusing on the "gay lifestyle" of both Dahmer and his victims — dominated media coverage right from the start. "In the mainstream press," says Schmidt, "his crimes were immediately defined as specifically gay crimes, as the result of either his own homosexuality or of the gay 'lifestyle' of his victims."

Dahmer was portrayed not only as sick and evil, but as the "logical extension" of the homosexual "lifestyle." According to Schmidt, "This equation of Dahmer and the gay community resulted in an increase of homophobic harassment and violence."

Conscious or not, the maintenance of homophobic bigotry depends upon a belief in, and fear of, the gay menace — a sustained confusion between the particular (a homosexual who happens be dangerous) and the general (the "danger" of homosexuality). Given the depth and widespread force of such confusion, crime reporters MUST take special care in using the "homosexual adjective."

These matters of style and slant are hardly small. In the most insidious ways, they reinforce a very "big lie."

ACTION ALERT! As newspapers continue to cover the Cunanan case (including any future arrest and trial), "Letters-to-the-Editors" can help to point out bias, suggest alternative slants, and generally insist that queer perspectives be taken into account. In addition to your local news media, send feedback to the major wire services: Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10020-1666, tel. 212-621-1600, fax 212-621-7520, e-mail rgersh@ap.org; United Press International, 2 Pennsylvania Plaza, New York, NY 10005, tel. 212-560-1100; Reuters, 199 Water Street, New York, NY 10038, fax 212-859-1717, e-mail webmaster@reuters.com, web-site www.reuters.com.

RE/SOURCES "Talk Back! - The Gay Person's Guide to Media Action" (Boston: Alyson Publications, 1982) offers several tips for analyzing media bias, which — though dated — still apply. Related resources are available from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association, a professional organization dedicated to working "within the news industry for fair, accurate and comprehensive coverage of gay issues." Contact: NLGJA Headquarters, 1718 M Street NW, #245, Washington, DC 20036, tel. 202-588-9888, fax 202-588-1818, e-mail exeoffice@aol.com, web-site www.journalism.sfsu.edu/nlgja.html.

Organizations exploiting a spurious connection between gays and crime include the American Family Association (the nation's largest anti-gay media watchdog group) and the Family Research Institute (a bogus project of defrocked psychologist Paul Cameron). Contact: American Family Association, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803, tel. 601-844-5036, fax 601-844-9176, e-mail afa@afa.net; Family Research Institute, P. O. Box 2091, Washington, DC 20013, tel. 703-690-8536.]

Martha Schmidt's article, "Dahmer Discourse and Gay Identity: The Paradox of Queer Politics," was published in a 1994 issue of "Critical Sociology" (Volume 20, Number 3). Contact: "Critical Sociology," Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; Martha A. Schmidt, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701.

Warnings about Andrew Cunanan have been widely distributed — along with his picture — in the lesbian/gay press; the basic details are also posted online, at the FBI's web site: www.fbi.gov/mostwant/tenlist.htm.

ADVICE AND VIRTUE

For nearly four decades, two sisters — Ann Landers and Abigail Van Buren (aka "Dear Abby") — have dominated the "advice" beat. Their ubiquitous columns are now read around the globe, exerting an unparalleled and influential counsel. By one estimate, Landers alone has reached some 90 million readers a day, making her the most widely-syndicated columnist in the world.

In recent columns, both "Abby" and Ann offered advice to readers confronted by homophobia. Where Landers typified the dull and trite approach of too many advice columnists — who literally have nothing to say — a much brighter effort was made by Van Buren, who apparently knows how to listen.

In her May 13 column, Van Buren printed a letter from an 11-year-old girl, who wrote: "I don't have a mother but I have 2 dads. My dad adopted me just after I turned 1 year old because my mother took drugs and didn't take care of me. My dad met his lover when I was 4, and we have lived together since I was 6."

The young reader further explained: "The reason I am writing is for all the people who say bad things about my dad and me.... They ask me if it bothers me that I was adopted by a gay man and don't have a mom. Well, it doesn't bother me — only their questions bother me. I love my dad and he loves me."

"Some people say that living with my dad is going to make me gay, but his parents raised him to be straight and he isn't," the girl added. "He has never told me to like boys (or girls). He says when I am older I will feel love for somebody, just like he loves John, just like my godmother loves her husband and just like my uncle loves his wife."

Finally, the girl concluded: "Abby, I know a lot of people read your column. Please print my letter so maybe people will think twice before they say hurtful things to people like me. Just because my family is a little different doesn't mean I'm not happy."

Much to her credit, Van Buren did just that. In addition to printing the letter, Van Buren offered this short — but sweet — response: "Dear Happily Adopted, Thank you for a wonderful letter. There is an incredible amount of wisdom in that 11-year old head of yours."

As for Ann Landers, her May 8 column included a letter from "a gay man who reads your column regularly." "Tom and I are in our 30s and have been partners for six years [and] Janet, Tom's sister, has invited me to her wedding," the man told Landers. "Tom's mother, however, sees this as strictly a family event and has told Tom that she would rather I not attend."

The letter went on to explain: "I have always gotten along well with Tom's family, including his mother, so I am somewhat baffled by this.... Tom has told his mother her position is unreasonable, selfish and hurtful. He has assured her that we will be discreet and anyone who does not know me will assume that I am just another guy at the wedding. The rest of Tom's family agrees with us. Tom's mother, however, insists that her wishes be respected...."

In conclusion, the troubled reader said: "I would love to attend Janet's wedding and be part of the celebration, but because his mother has made it known that she doesn't want me there, I'm not sure I should go. I really don't want to make her miserable on such an important day. I need your advice."

Landers' reply was also short — like Van

Continued on Next Page

Queers Eye View

Continued from P. 2

has been and is horrendous. I don't believe we can ever go back and return the land but we can go forward and see to it that our Native American brothers and sisters have their fair share of the abundance that is America.

I could go on and on. What I wish to say is that I believe that a capitalist can be socially aware and support social programs that help to spread the wealth of the nation around a little--at least enough to protect all the people and to help guarantee that none need starve, go without medical attention, work slave labor hours or without a share of the money earned through fair pay for fair work.

One can be a capitalist and still believe that taxes are necessary to support certain programs and that governmental involvement in some areas is necessary.

One can be a capitalist and believe that when a non-profit organization becomes a big, for-profit, business, it should share equally in the tax burden of the people.

One can be a capitalist and accept that the FCC has a right to license and regulate use of the public airwaves or that the city has the right, and duty, to operate a hospital that serves all the people, including the indigent, and to run an efficient utility department.

One can be a capitalist and believe in public schools, public roads, public libraries, public parks, etc.

And one can be a capitalist and support women's rights and choice, universal health care and inclusion of gays in the Civil Rights Act.

I am guilty of all of the above "one cans...," Chuck. And just to make this full disclosure, I also have strongly supported all desegregation efforts, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, One Man/One Vote, etc. And, finally, I find so-called "English Only" laws meanspiritied and with no other purpose than to demean.

I am sure that Chuck's listeners are, by this time, writhing and emitting wails of "political correctness," a term I am not sure they understand. I believe that I am socially and environmentally concerned, that I believe in equality and equal treatment for all and that I try to be aware of things that concern my brothers and sisters on this earth.

None of this, however, changes the fact that I believe in private investment and operation of the vast majority of our industrial and business enterprises. Nowhere is it written that a capitalist shall not believe in social justice. Why, I am even one of these investors, albeit to a small degree, through the ownership of stock.

And I have another surprise for the worshippers at the Tower of Babble. I am a flag waving patriot. I believe greatly in this country--this one nation (not many). I am first, and foremost, a citizen of these United States, and mighty glad for it. I am proud to march down the street waving our flag.

When I see someone burn the flag, it disgusts me, it disturbs me, it stirs my ire. Yet, if my country passes a law saying one cannot do so, I will stand before the nation's Capitol and set afire in protest that instrument I so revere.

Well, Chuckie, Baby, I hope that gives you plenty of ammunition for some show in the future. You can rest assured, as always, I will not hear it and I certainly will not be on it. I have much better things to do with my time.

SANDRA

Continued from P. 12

On Wednesday night before the first day of the full session, all of the members gathered for a dinner and cocktail party. Most of the people had arrived and there were a lot of new people to meet. Sandra was dressed in a light tunic and tights. She was getting use to the shoes with short heels and had on a pair that night. Sandra had been spending some of her free time the first few days with Ruth (Dave), Jennifer (Mike), and Jan (Gary). She sat down at a table with Jennifer and Jan. A couple of new people joined them and they got into a discussion of what the convention meant to them. Jean (Jerry) and Becky (Bob) had been to four conventions and this was Terri's (Tom) second. Sandra was excited as the others shared their experiences. She saw them display their feminine nature and behave like women.

She looked over at Jan and they talked about how excited they were to be there as women and how much they had grown or changed in the short two days they had been there. Jean and Becky told them about some of the previous conventions and the people they had met.

After the dinner, everyone got up and wandered around the convention hall looking at the various displays of books, clothes, and jewelry. Sandra was looking at some jewelry when she looked up. She was surprised, but then she remembered the first talk she had attended. They were told not to be surprised if they say an old friend, or someone they knew fairly well, here. For just as each of them kept this as a secret part of their lives, so do many other men. The registrants were told to greet these people the same as they would if they saw them in their regular male settings.

Sandra couldn't believe her eyes as she looked out over the crowd and saw George standing there in a beautiful two piece outfit. His skirt was above his knees and he had on cute red shoes to match his outfit. It had been about five years since Sandra had worked with George on a large project in Texas. Sandra had liked him and appreciated his wisdom and thoroughness on the project. Remembering the first lecture, Sandra started to go over to George. As she got within three steps of him he looked towards her and recognized her as Dan Ryder. Sandra held out her hand and said, "It is good to see you again. I am Sandra."

George, still unbelieving, said, "I was hoping to see someone I knew. I am Debra." They looked unbelieving at each other, laughed, and then hugged as if life long friends.

This even was so special for Sandra. She knew that she could be feminine around friends and people she had known before. During the evening she met a couple of other people whom she had met and worked with in the past. They talked about their experience in cross dressing and how they had come to this point where they dressed as women for a week.

Give us a hand

Leading up to our 5th Birthday Anniversary Celebration in December, *Ground Zero News* will be featuring a year by year review of the past five years, one each month, for the next five months. We are seeking pictures and materials we can use, especially for the first two years. Call Julie at 635-6086.

Medialert

Continued from P. 16

Buren's — but more simple-minded than sincere. She advised: "Dear Maryland, You have been invited to this wedding by the bride. This is HER day, and her wishes should prevail. By all means, go and be sure to ask Tom's mother to dance."

At best, Landers responds to bigotry as if it were a question of etiquette, rather than hate. The bride's wishes should prevail NOT SIMPLY because it is "her day," but because she is RIGHT — and homophobia is WRONG.

Landers ignores (and tacitly supports) her reader's own INTERNALIZED homophobia. The gay man's promise to behave ("we will be discreet and anyone who does not know me will assume that I am just another guy at the wedding") is pathetic and unwarranted. Landers should have advised him of as much.

Instead, she somehow manages to overlook the gross absurdity of a homosexual taking responsibility for "upsetting" homophobes ("I really don't want to make her miserable on such an important day"). Landers failed to point out that misery is a product of the homophobe's own ignorance — a condition that is perpetuated by acts of "discretion."

Indeed, to attend the wedding with honesty and pride — as a gay man, and NOT "just another (heterosexual) guy" — would be the only considered AND considerate thing to do. In her final word of advice — "Be sure to ask Tom's mother to dance" — Landers suggests that homosexuals should politely ignore homophobia.

This advice would have been much better (and less patronizing) if Landers had added: "Be sure to ask your lover to dance, as well. And tell Tom's mother to get used to it."

ACTION ALERT! Landers and other well-intentioned columnists want to do better; they just need some good advice. Send suggestions to: Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., #7000, Los Angeles, CA 90045-5600. To encourage Van Buren's more-enlightened effort, compliments should be sent to: Abigail Van Buren, "Dear Abby," P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Both advice mavens can usually be contacted in care of any of the 1,000+ newspapers that carry their columns, as well (web browsers can access addresses at the Newslink site, www.newslink.org/news.html, which is searchable by newspaper name or location).

Re/SOURCES: In contrast to her 1997 (May 8) column, Ann Landers wrote a 1995 (June 15) piece in which she told a 52-year-old gay father that he should keep his lover home when attending his own son's wedding. In the wake of what she described as an outpouring of "angry mail," however, Landers eventually offered a retraction. In an August 20 column, Landers admitted: "My advice was gutless. I should have said, 'Tell your son if your life companion is not welcome, you won't be there. He needs educating, and this could be an important first step.'"

Her failure to give the same advice concerning "Tom's mother" suggests that Landers is haplessly forgetful — or hopelessly insincere. Just last year (July 21, 1996), after all, Landers responded with blatant bigotry when a lesbian reader wrote seeking her support for same-sex marriage.

"I define marriage as a union between a man and a woman," Landers drooled. "I cannot support same-sex marriage... because it flies in the face of cultural and traditional family life as we have known it for centuries."]

"Web Watch" [Gay Men Fighting AIDS; Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons; Ecola Magazine and Newspaper Directory; Online Activism; Feminist Activist Resources on the Net; Activist's Oasis; An Activist's Strategic Guide to the Internet].

MEDIA/BRIEFS

SCHOOL DAZE George House, a member of the California state legislature, has introduced "Assembly Bill 1490," which would prevent schools from using state funds to purchase any textbook or videotape "that promotes or advocates homosexuality as a viable alternative lifestyle." According to the "Modesto Bee" (May 4), House's bill also includes "a provision that would stop school districts from referring students to organizations that advocate a gay lifestyle or say that it is OK to be gay."

In response to AB 1490, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) is providing California legislators with copies of "Teaching Respect For All" — a video that would be banned under the proposed law. "For bureaucrats who have not even seen the materials in question to tell our schools what they can and cannot talk about is mind control, pure and simple, which is the opposite of what we need in education," said GLSTN executive director Kevin Jennings.

Existing state law already requires that textbooks used in California's public schools "teach honor and respect for monogamous, heterosexual marriage." Because of its size and purchasing power, California exerts a nationwide influence on what publishers do — and do not — include in textbooks.

Contact: California State Assembly, Sacramento, CA 95814, web-site leginfo.public.ca.gov; GLSTN, tel. 212-727-0135, e-mail glstn@glstn.org.

NO LAUGHING MATTER Airing on the Comedy Central cable network, "The Daily Show," is a hybrid of news, talk show and comedy routines — basically, an expanded rip-off of the "News" sketches pioneered by "Saturday Night Live." A recent episode (May 15) featured a bit entitled "Prom Queen," which mocked and maligned gay youth.

The segment featured a news clip of Jacob Eiler — a (real-life) gay teenager in Anderson, Indiana — who had decided to take a male date to the prom. As he pointed to the slashed tires of his car, Elier described recounted the harassment that followed his decision. Though coming out had made him "infamous for being gay," he explained, this was matter of "civil rights."

Reacting to the news clip, "Daily Show" host Craig Kilbourn mocked the idea that this issue had anything to do with human dignity or safety. Joking of hate crimes against "homosexual tires," Kilbourn scoffed at the teenager's claims of harassment. Elier's reference to civil rights should offend "black people," Kilbourn suggested.

The "Daily Show" host joked that, in response to news of the boy's plight, efforts would be underway for "freeing the gay slave trade." "Hundreds of civil rights activists" are planning "to storm queer farms... freeing prisoners wearing zipper masks," Kilbourn quipped.

In a final attempt at humor, Kilbourn suggested that gays coming out in high school would entail such sporting events as "antique restoration" and an "indoor speed record for the reach around."

Contact : Comedy Central, 1775 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, tel. 212-767-8647, web site www.comedycentral .com.

ABOUT MEDIALERTS

Distributed as a community press service since 1992, "MEDIAlert!" [TM] is a bi-weekly, advocacy oriented column of media criticism, primarily focused on lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender issues

AUTHOR NOTES

Al Kielwasser is the editor of "Gay People, Sex and the Media" (New York: Haworth Press). His media criticism and research have appeared widely, in both mainstream and academic publications (including the "Journal of American Culture," "Journal of Homosexuality," "Journal of Popular Culture," and "Critical Studies in Mass Communication"); he was twice elected Chair of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area.

QUEER REVIEWS

Except where noted, the reviews below are courtesy of *Our Own Community Press*, the statewide GLBT in Virginia since 1976.

Book art compliments of Chinook Books

GAY MONEY: Your Personal Guide to Same-Sex strategies for Financial Security, Strength, and Success

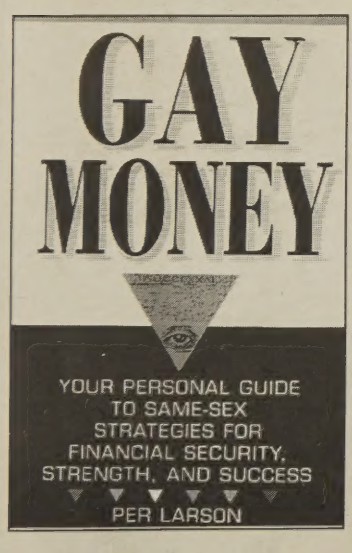
by Per Larson
Dell Publishing, 1997
$12.95

Gay money is a prescriptive, holistic guide to financial planning and money management that identifies the unique advantages and hidden challenges facing gay men and lesbians--and their money--in a straight world. Per Larson, a New York based financial advisor, draws on cases from his own extensive private practice to address the specific needs of the many "generations" of gay men and women, who confront unique financial decisions during the different stages of their lives.

Written specifically for gay and lesbian readers, *Gay Money* identifies key financial problems gays are likely to encounter in their careers, relationships, and health care, and gives detailed explanations for the many important questions from "What is the financial argument for safe sex?" to "What is the one jointly held asset that causes the most trouble when a gay couple splits up?" with many more in between designed to maximize an entire financial gay life, from the surplus spendable incomes of childless early adulthood to the tax and legal ramifications of unmarried partnerships.

It also addresses the specific financial needs of anyone living with HIV--whose navigation of insurance and discrimination issues requires an informed, proactive approach--and clarifies the financial angles of such current issues as gay marriage, gay parenting, aging and retirement, and more.

---DTP--Not an "*Our Own...*" review



Last Rites

by Tracey Richardson
Naiad Press, 1997
$11.95

Last Rites is described on its cover as the first Stevie Houston mystery. Stevie is a rookie detective, investigating her first murder case. Is the death of Catholic priest Father Gregory McCleary a brutal murder or a tragic case of auto-erotic strangulation? Stevie's investigations take her to the seedier corners of Toronto's gay district, and also bring her an unexpected chance for happiness. Stevie finds that the coroner on this case is the lovely Dr. Jade Agawa-Garneau. At first she is put off by the coroner's manner, but they quickly find that together they can make beautiful music - not just in the investigation of the case, but as they discover their feelings for each other. Will Stevie be able to solve the case? Will Stevie be able to overcome her problems with intimacy? Will Stevie and Jade live happily ever after? Will Stevie and Jade live at all? Go ahead and read the book to find out. It is an easy read, although sometimes wordings are a little clumsy, and may cause minor irritation for some readers. Will there be a second Stevie Houston mystery? That question is left unanswered.

-Rosemary Doud

Hybrid: Bisexuals, Multiracials, and Other Misfits Under American Law

by Ruth Colker
NYU Press, 1996
$18.95

America is a culture that despises ambiguity. It loathes the betwixt and between. The law in any culture is the way society describes itself to itself and maintains its meaningful boundaries, however beneficial or destructive to people or even survival. American law has, reflecting Americans distaste of what is neither this-or-that, relegated to the margins or endeavored to destroy people and their identities when they diverge from the norm.

Hybrid: Bisexuals, Multiracials, and Other Misfits Under American Law is a legal and cultural study that forcefully argues that legal rules must be revised to account for the differences between people that make a difference. The law currently is unable to effectively deal with categories of people that cross categories of definition. Our legal bipolarity is harmful because it ignores differences that affect how people act, make decisions, and operate within our complex society.

Colker doesn't say that categories shouldn't be part of the law. They are a necessity in legal matters. Without categories there would be no way to make decisions and to resolve conflicting interests. Categories are a necessity for human decision making. What Colker forcefully argues in Hybrid is that bipolar and simplistic legal categories are inefficient and ineffective. Colker examines the legal issues surrounding race, disability, sexual orientation, and gender in this fascinating, powerful, and well written book.

-Lee Hanson

The Geography of Perversion

by Rudi C. Bleys
New York University Press 1996
$18.95

The word "homosexuality" was first used in 1869, coincidentally 100 years before the Stonewall Rebellion that marked the beginning of the modern gay movement in the United States. Since 1969, american queers have influenced gay rights efforts around the globe.

Research on gay people and sexual orientation is often conducted in the West with a decidedly Western bias. Often studies about sexual orientation ignore or limit the role society plays in the development of sexual minority cultures and individual developments. Anthropologists and adventurers through the centuries have also minimized the role of sexuality in different cultures. Reports from the field would either ignore or demonize sexual behaviors.

Bleys says that one cannot understand sexual orientation or sexuality in culture, or indeed understand our own culture, without a clear understanding of how the historical record of sexuality has been shaped by Western assumptions.

In order to develop a more robust understanding of Western culture, as well as non-Western cultures, Bleys deconstructs male to male sexual behavior in non-Western cultures. He describes this "...metaphorically, as the geography of perversion and desire, that is, the representations of sexual behavior..." in non-Western cultures as explicated in European texts between 1750-1918. In the end this project is an analysis not only of male to male sexual desire, but also one of race and domination.

Bleys is a careful scholar and this is a challenging book, but quite interesting.

-Lee Hanson

Sexualities

ed. by Marney Hall, Ph.D.
Harrington Park Press, 1996
$14.95

Would that all scholarship were this interesting. Hall includes articles about painful interpersonal relationships such as the lesbian couple who could not kiss, but provides balance with humor. Sexualities begins with a short list titles "101 Uses for Sex - Or Why Sex Is So Important," where Annie Sprinkle tells us that sex can be used to release tension, make money, or burn calories, among many other uses.

In "Intimacy for Sale," Diana E. H. Russell discusses the differences in what is purchased when men and women buy intimacy. The thesis is that men will buy sex for cash, but women will often buy therapy. She claims that the boom in therapy is partly due to women being willing to buy intimacy and that this can be harmful sometimes.

Several other articles cover S/M, safer sex, and other topics. Sexualities is a worthwhile book about issues of gender, feminist therapy, therapy, and women.

-Lee Hanson

So, Is He Gay?: The Single Woman's Guide to Whether He'd Make a Better Groom or Caterer at Your Wedding

by Laurie Mitchell
Longstreet, 1996
$8.95

By capitalizing on every single stereotype in existence about gay men, Mitchell's 112 pages of commentary, comics, and list-making succeed in generating some smiles and some smirks. Some of the primary sources for her humor are supposed gay men's neatness, taste, class, education, erudition in art and music, and generally extraordinary personality characteristics. Straight men to her are sloppy, foolish, bumbling, without style, and have no vision of a life outside of their own self-interest.

OK, so she's right.

Unfortunately not all gay men are imbued with the innate and developed quality she implicitly assumes we all have. And not all straight men are as bumbling. One could conclude that she is heterophobic or possibly that she is patronizing about gay men. But either perspective would be uncharitable. The book is entertaining.

Most likely straight women will be most amused since Mitchell's commentary on straight men is precisely on the points that women (and many gay men) find aggravating about straight men. Suffice it to say that gay men are pretty sterling in Mitchell's eyes, but are still more suitable to be her friends, since she admits to being hetero and dedicates the book to her wonderful husband and some men (presumably gay) in her life.

-Lee Hanson

Accepting Ourselves & Others: A Journey into Recovery from Addictive & Compulsive Behaviors for Gays, Lesbians & Bisexuals

by Sheppard B. Kominars, Ph.D. and Kathryn D. Kominars, Ph.D.
Hazelden, 1997
$18.95

In 1988 Kominars had Accepting Ourselves published. While working at a bookstore I was sure to keep it in stock because it spoke most effectively to the special needs of queer people seeking and needing recovery. In Accepting Ourselves Kominars endeavored to pierce the shells of shame about self and ameliorate some of the barriers gay people feel when confronting 12-step work in primarily heterosexual settings.

It was an excellent source that went out of print.

Kominars and Kominar's new edition is much expanded and it's even better.

Where the original touched on some of the barriers faced by gay people seeking treatment, the new book plumbs the depths of barriers to treatment in traditional 12-step programs and shows the LGBT person that there is room for her or him in supportive circumstances.

Several traditional attitudes in 12-step programs can act to prevent a gay person from seeking help. First recovering people are often told that they must distance themselves from those people around them who use substances and that they need to avoid those places where they used to socialize. Given the small social world occupied by gay people (even in large cities) such a suggestion could prevent people from attending meetings or seeking recovery. The Kominars say avoidance of people and places may not be possible and shouldn't necessarily be a centerpiece of the recovery program.

Furthermore there are some in recovery who frown on any use of drugs whether or not prescribed. Accepting Ourselves makes a clear case that such a position may be contrary to practicality, health, and even recovery.

Many 12-step programs, being spiritual, feel Christian. Even when the 12-step group claims with all the fervor of a lady protesting too much that it is any chosen spirituality, not Christianity, that the 12-step program encourages, some gay people may be turned off. Gay people in America have often been deeply scarred by their houses of childhood worship and may avoid any recovery program that even feels centered on spirituality.

Kominars also believe that choosing a therapist, when a therapist is helpful and necessary, should be done with care and provides excellent guidelines.

After Accepting Ourselves and Others

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

sets the concerned person on the road to recovery at ease about the possibility of building recovery fitting gay realities, they present each step in a chapter and provide a series of workbooks and exercises to help the gay person achieve success in recovery.

If a 12-step approach to recovery might help, this is really a great resource. Nina Shaw of The Lightbearer, says this is the most important book on recovery since the AA Big Book was published in 1939. It's good.

-Lee Hanson

Same Sex Marriage: Pro and Con

Edited by Andrew Sullivan
Vintage Books
$14.00

From the ancient musing of Plato to a Middle Ages Catholic rite of marriage ceremony of two men through modern day minds such as Ann Landers, Senator Phil Gramm and Evan Wolfson, editor Sullivan walks his reader through centuries of observations and opinions on same-sex marriage and relationships.

Same Sex Marriage: Pro and Con is a collection of essays and writings on the historically curious and presently volatile issue of marriage between persons of the same sex. Sullivan brings together two histories, the history of marriage and the history of homosexuality into a comprehensive volume that explores both sides of each issue and the pros and cons of same sex marriage.

Sullivan also raises the the question of whether homosexual marriages were sanctioned in societies before ours, or were they just so accepted that nothing needed to be said? Are there religious bases to deny same sex couple the right to marry or does our constitution guarantee this right through the inalienable right of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and under the 14th Amendment? Will sanctioning same sex marriages enhance the institution of marriage or be its detriment?

Marriage, according to Sullivan, has gone through many changes over the centuries. From bloodlines, property rights (including the ownership of wives and children) and procreation to love, commitment, sharing and the right to choose one's own partner, marriage has been used as a political tool to posture those in power and a means to personal fulfillment. This collection of essays covers the entire gamut of reason, beliefs, emotions, observations and legal aspects involved in the marriage issue. Same-sex parenting, and gay children are topics also discussed.

Yes, the religious arguments are included, including THOSE biblical references so often used against gays. But also included is the loving side of religion, such as the essay by Episcopalian Bishop John Shelby Spong. Some of the essays are acutely unnerving, such as the writings of Senator Phil Gramm, William Bennet and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Some are personally and politically empowering, some historically empowering, some warm and affirming and others are simply intriguing.

All, however, are an invaluable asset to the collection of anyone who wants to have a quick reference to the the gay marriage debate, or who wants to respond to both sides of the same-sex marriage issue.

Sullivan integrates two thousand years of curiosity and arguments on same-sex partners into an anthology of historic, political, and emotional inclusiveness and balance that will surely be standard reference for everyone interested in this issue for years to come

--Julie Cooper (Not an *Our Own* Review)

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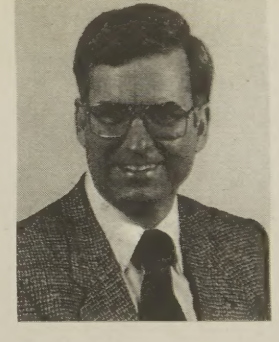

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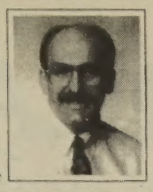

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